

MACLEAN'S

CANADA'S WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE | www.macleans.ca

JANUARY 10

BEYOND WORDS

\$4.95

02





We didn't invent convenience, but we're all for it.

Helpful, courteous service is a tradition most of us grew up with. So it should be something you expect from everybody you deal with, including your bank. At TD Canada Trust, our goal is to make banking a better experience. Our award-winning EasyWeb™ was voted the "Most popular web banking service in Canada". We offer longer hours at more branches. And you never have to fill out deposit or withdrawal slips because we do it for you. Make the move to comfortable banking. Now with EasySwitch™, it's never been simpler.

1-800-436-3333 www.tdcanadatrust.com



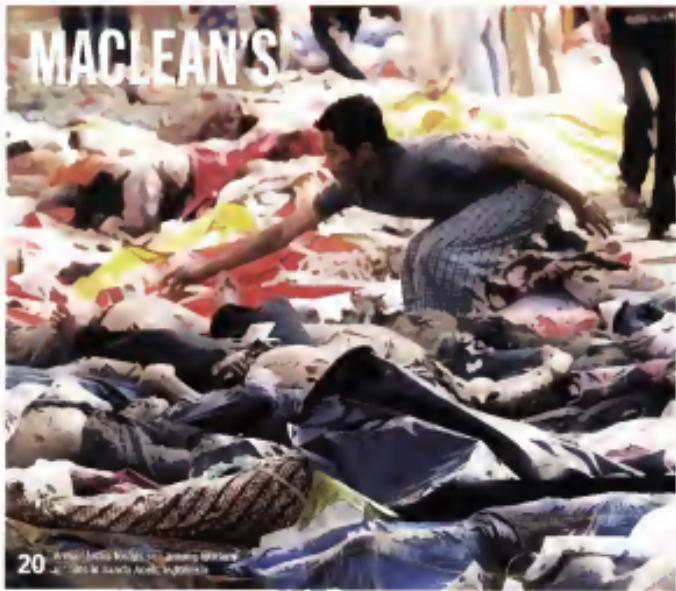
Canada Trust

Banking can be this comfortable.



CONTENTS

JANUARY 10, 2005



20 *Asian震災：海嘯之後* 災後重建工作
— *亞洲震災：海嘯之後*

FEATURES

- 20** | **Cover**
BEYOND WORDS The tsunami horror left the world struggling with the questions how to help.
- 28** | **Quebec**
LES X REVOLT A new conservative movement has political old-timers worried.
- 32** | **Ukraine**
VICTORY DELAYED The opposition wins, but the regime tries to hang tough.
- 36** | **Technology**
THE DVD WAR Two industry titans are replicating the VHS vs. Betamax battle.
- 40** | **Essay**
IS ANYBODY THERE? Modern life makes friends more important, but harder to find.
- 42** | **Health**
TO NEW HEIGHTS Two Canadian transplant victims set a record on a Bolivian mountain.
- 44** | **History**
A POLITICAL FOOTBALL Canada's naval fleet was once third-largest on the high seas.
- 46** | **Film**
HAVANA FANTASIA At Cuba's film festival, Brian D. Johnson revels in a vibrant culture.



A TRAGEDY BEYOND BELIEF

We once could close our minds to others' disasters—but the world is smaller now

PHI PHI ISLAND, off the coast of Thailand, is—or was—one of those wonderfully lovely, sunlit places where you go to temporarily abandon all cares in the world. During a week there 15 years ago, I spent hours literally sunning, sun-spooning,—immersed by the perfect beach and the remarkable colour of the ocean, as bright as a sunset at teal. The island's tranquillity contrasts with the much larger Phuket nearby, which has a well deserved

reputation as Party Central. Both places have provided great getaways—depending on how you take your pleasure—which is why it is even harder to realize they are now among the most deadly, devastated places on Earth. After the Dec. 26 tsunami that brought such phenomenal destruction to Asian lands, more than 300 bodies were found on any Phi Phi; the tidal wave, the tsunami, ran into the chasmos, and the final toll may not be known for months.

The nature of tragedy is that it can take months or sometimes years before we fully comprehend just how changeable anything is. The events of 9/11 were like that even as we watched, with terrible fascination, the televised replay of al-Qaeda crashing into the World Trade Center. It still wasn't immediately possible to fathom that the world really had just become a much different place. These years on, we feel the effect even more, both small (long lines at airports and vastly increased security) and large (the much more polarized—and dangerous—nature of global politics).

The Dec. 26 tsunami is such an event. The first reports of the death toll, though terrible, were in line with other tragedies that mankind has endured in recent years: a 1988 earthquake in Armenia killed 25,000, a 1996 hurricane in Central America took 15,000 lives, a 2000 quake in India killed 20,000. And then there was the chilling thought that the initial estimate of 13,000 dead was probably too high—as is often the case in the aftermath of disaster. (After the 2001 Indian catastrophe, the final tally was 100,000 dead.)

This has been the awful exception to that rule. With each day in the immediate aftermath, the estimate of the tsunami's toll doubled—then doubled again and again, to

“Initial death estimates after tragedy are often overblown—but this time has been the terrible exception”

beyond 100,000. In the month ahead, disaster-torn water and sprawling green foot sores had and would no doubt drive that total for higher.

Years ago, I read a study of the print media that came to roughly this conclusion: journalists' space is usually devoted to a coverage of hundreds of people dying, as a far-off corner of the world, distant of people dying in North America, only a couple of people dying in the city in which the newspaper operates. The reason was that we care so much about events on our doorstep (which remains true) and we don't feel the same empathy for faraway people from other cultures (which, in a multinational society, is now much less true). The string of tsunamis everywhere, including here, is raising a lot of Canadian concern, raising, and we may never know how many Canadians who were born elsewhere but for family members. You'll find a list of contacts on page 27 for organizations offering aid. Be generous and remember the world is a smaller place in every way than it was once. And Phi Phi Island will never again be a place where we can escape all care.

Anthony Wilson-Smith

ewilsonsmith@maclean.ca to comment on "The Editor's Letter."

Editorial

Editorial Letters

Political Column

Political Columnists

Book Reviews

Book Reviews</

'We may not approve of the man our daughter chooses to marry, but do we outlaw this marriage? No, it's her choice. Why is gay marriage any different?' —SUE DEMPSEY, FORTRESSVILLE, ONT.

Da Vinci's inquest

Kudos to Brian Berthiaume for putting this silly *Da Vinci Code* in its place ("Cracking the *Da Vinci Code*," Cover, Dec. 20). It's bad enough for a society to allow the good name of an institution cherished by millions, such as the Catholic Church, to be tarnished with impunity under the cloak of a work of fiction in the name of art. But to allow someone to do the damage with third-rate writing, to present fiction as truth and to walk away with millions of dollars in his pocket, is simply pathetic.

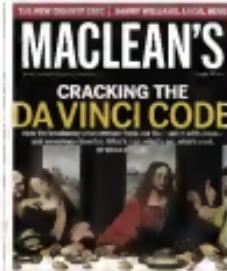
Rosie Gherardi, Montreal

Brian Berthiaume's column too fine-tuned *The Da Vinci Code* to widely popular because of the convergence of two very broad-based factors. It is a jolly good whodunit and it addresses a yearning in many modern spiritual seekers: there must be another choice in Christianity today between believing in a literal, definitive Bible—which many cannot or will not do—or not believing at all.

Jim Robertson, Calgary

I just read your article on *The Da Vinci Code* and couldn't help notice that it includes a picture of two young women as they admire the sketch in Jesus' Church of St. Sulpice. If you look carefully at the slant of the woman on the right, you can clearly see the face of Jesus (or perhaps it's Mary, or maybe even St. Sulpice himself). No kidding, have a look.

Tom Shime, Vancouver, Ont.



Is Berthiaume's interpretation of the book "sobered by prejudice"? If the book was written to promote prejudices against Catholics, then I am sorry I bought it. I simply thought it was an engaging novel from a unique imagination. Whatever its purpose, the Catholic Church has survived 2000 years, and I am sure it will survive *The Da Vinci Code*.

Matthew Fisher, pastoral assistant, St. Thomas of Aquin Catholic Church, Kitchener, Ont.

Mo' money's worth

We are shocked that you would eat the "Canadian-made-chocolate" candy (Money's Worth, Dec. 13) without doing your homework. We live in New Brunswick where Garage Chocolate makes its home, and

Record response | Nothing like same-sex to fire up readers

When the Maclean's website asked, "Who you going to the Supreme Court hearing on same-sex marriage?" it was bombarded by thousands of responses. Far more than the average 400 responses posted on the site in the past five years. Forty-three per cent agreed with same-sex marriage, 40 per cent disagreed and eight per cent asked, "Why is this fuss?"

I don't think that Brian Berthiaume under stands that *The Da Vinci Code* is a work of fiction. It is to be read and enjoyed; an escape, just like a movie. He seems pretty worked up over something that is meant to be entertainment.

Lisa Whalen, Fredericton

I was greatly pleased to read Brian Berthiaume's remark that "reflexive anti-Catholics, with no reason to do so in the English-speaking world, remain among the most

we know about the great variety of product that is available here beyond the "awesomed" purplebox you wrote about so distractingly. Since this inexpensive Gourmet product at \$5.99 was being compared with Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia examples from \$21.95 to \$42.95 a box, why didn't your writers take the time to explore the Gourmet Chocolates Shoppes in the towns of St. Stephen and St. Andrews, where a customer can make selections from as wide an array of high-end product as we have seen in any major city?

Dr. and Mrs. Donald Miller, Saint John, N.B.

Mutual funds! admiration society

In his Dec. 13 column ("Beware funds having gifts"), Steve Macchi presents a wholly negative view of the mutual fund industry that is far removed from reality. The fact is that mutual funds deliver excellent value to Canadians. They remain the most affordable way for investors to build diversified, professionally managed portfolios. All the recent press about mutual funds only demonstrates that mutual funds offer more disclosure about their costs, objectives, operation and comparative performance than any other investment. As well, mutual funds offer liquidity in that they can be sold in whole or in part on any business day, unlike GICs or other fixed-term investments.

Tom Heulin, President and CEO, Investment Funds Institute of Canada, Toronto

Avoiding debtors' person

It's old-fashioned to within one's means, particularly when the means are limited ("Dig deep in book," Personal Finance, Dec. 8). And it's hard when your savings are eaten last year's clothes or you have to pass up an invitation to join friends at expensive restaurants. Yet my family feels a deep satisfaction in knowing that we can meet our needs on what we earn and by making sure that our needs are ours and not imposed on us by others.

Markie Miller, Calgary

Unsung heroes

I would like to thank you for your article about troubled youth ("It's not all about succeeding," Over to You, Dec. 13). As a youth, I am tired of being bombarded with the focus on youth crime, violence in schools and how teen culture is obsessed with sex, drugs and, of course, a lack of respect for authority. Every

IT KNOWS YOUR VOICE.
IT CAN SENSE SOME AGGRESSION.



The 270-hp Acura TL NAVI Package[®] The harder you drive, the harder it performs. AVTIC[®] V6 engine delivers powerful acceleration throughout the entire rpm range. Its optional Acura[®] SH-AWD[™] brakes provide equally powerful stopping power. And satellite-linked navigation with voice recognition is perfect for all moments in between.[®]

[®]Optional NAVI Package. In some areas navigation service for the Acura TL V6 and Acura TL SH-AWD V6 models. Acura NAVI Package and Acura SH-AWD are available with optional Technology or the optional Premium Package.



WHERE'S
THE REMOTE?!

Is it under the couch? Is it in another COUNTRY? Now it really could be ANYWHERE. But it's because the new Toshiba Qosmio is a netbook /MP3 portable home-entertainment centre ALL IN ONE! See if you can find the Qosmio rumble in this 'mischer' www.toshiba.com/qosmio



The logo for Centrino mobile technology, featuring a blue and red stylized triangle with the word "centrino" and "MOBILE TECHNOLOGY" below it.

Start. Game. Watch movies. Download and play music. Even record your favorite TV shows and watch them anywhere. It's a wireless Notebook unlike anything you've ever seen or heard before. The new Toshiba Qosmio with Intel® Centrino™ Mobile Technology. Enjoy all the comforts of home anywhere you want.

Western PC Notebook
Intel® On Media Player
LCD TV work
FreeBrite™ Display
Digital Video Recorder
HDMI™-Kabels* spezifisch
NVIDIA® GeForce™
Grafikkarte
Microsoft® Windows® XP
Media Center Edition 2005

Did you find it?
Go to www.sportsgta.ca
and enter our "Where's
the money?" contest.

TOSHIBA
TELEVISIONS, COMPUTER MONITORS & PROJECTORS

Toshiba recommends Microsoft® Windows® XP Media Centre Edition 2008. Microsoft® Windows® XP Media Centre Edition 2008 is not supported on the Toshiba 14.1" Satellite L300-100.



On June 20, 2005, the Secretary of State of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Michael J. Carroll, filed a complaint in the Superior Court of Massachusetts, Boston, against the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, et al., for declaratory and injunctive relief.

October, my school collects canned goods for the needy in our community, and then, in December, we donate gifts and money to poor families so their children can feel the magic of Christmas. We have various clubs such as Knights Fighting Cancer to help cancer patients and their families get through the stressful time. You will never see our innovative efforts on the cover of a magazine, but that does not mean they don't exist. Your smile helped change the bias and the stereotype of youth in our community.

not approve of same sex marriage, but I fully approve of same-sex unions that give gay men and lesbians the same rights and obligations. Having had the courage to come out and declare themselves, why are they not entitled to have their own institution with a name chosen by them and a vocabulary and ceremony suited to their situation with the same status as marriage?

should celebrate and acknowledge gay/lesbian alliances just as we do heterosexual alliances. A stable relationship is surely preferable for the stability of our society.

The numbered kind

It distresses me that when the government can't resolve a pending, serious decision on its own, it runs to the Supreme Court to make the decision for it. "The same six debate bonds [Parsons' way?]" Up front, Dec. 28, it is as if a cloud of political despair over by our elected representatives that I find distressing.
Tom McLeese,
Ankeny, Ia.

Let the people decide, not the politicians or the judges. A national referendum is in order.

According to the 1991 Census, 1.5 million Canadians reported having suffered an attempted or completed suicide attempt. This figure represents 4.5% of the population aged 12 and older. The rate of attempted suicide is higher among women (5.2%) than men (3.8%).

THE REAL FIGHT
BEGAN WHEN HE WON
THE CHAMPIONSHIP.

A Film Directed by KEN BURNS



Includes Voices from
SAMUEL L. JACKSON,
BILLY BOB THORNTON,
ED HARRIS
and Interviews with
JAMES EARL JONES,
GEORGE CLOONEY,
and Many More



CO-SCORETRACK
AVAILABLE NOW ON
HOME VIDEO RELEASE

A CHAMPION FOR ALL. ON DVD
JANUARY 11TH.



Don't Forget These Award-Winning
DVD Gift Sets by Ken Burns.

www.pbs.org/kenburns/sets/
www.kenburns.com/sets

Print Credit: Courtesy of the National Film and Video Foundation. Other availability: DVD and VHS tape are available at www.pbs.org/kenburns/sets/. Tel. 1-800-432-2825. © 2002 PBS. All rights reserved. PBS and the PBS logo are registered trademarks of the Public Broadcasting Service. All Rights Reserved.

MACLEAN'S BEHINDTHESCENES



AT SCHOOL, WITH MACLEAN'S

As kids head back to school for the second semester, many of them will be turning to the magazine you hold in your hands. Maclean's has been a classroom resource for over 20 years, with a loyal following among teachers, many of whom renew their in-class Program subscriptions annually.

The program is a cross-curriculum educational package based on Maclean's editorial content, for use in Social Studies, English, and ESL courses. The magazine is the primary text and it comes with teaching support materials, including prepared lesson plans, activities and quizzes on articles in each issue.

"My students love the current, in-depth analysis of recent events," says Jonathan Sykes, a grade 12 teacher at Lansdowne Collegiate in Markham. "The backgrounder are an excellent resource."

Sykes is among 600 teachers at schools across Canada who use the In-Class Program to enrich their course curricula and develop students' reading, writing and critical thinking skills, notes program manager Meagan Kachurk. "Teachers appreciate the quality and currency of the materials and the Canadian content," she says, adding that each year about 16,000 new grade 9 to first-year-university-level students subscribe to the program.

Bob Janzen, a Grade 10 teacher at Parkview Academy in Alberta, agrees. "A Canadian perspective is more important than ever. So much news is non-Canadian that without Maclean's my students often wouldn't know there are two sides to the story."

For more information on the In-Class Program, log on to www.macleanstvclass.com or call 1-800-468-1951.

Help shape what's inside Maclean's by registering as a member of the Maclean's Advisory Panel at www.macleanstvclass.ca/tp. For more information about this article, contact behindthescenes@maclean.ca.

UPFRONT

Mansbridge on the Record 12 | Janigan on the Issues 18 | Passages 18



Mad cow | Will Canada's cattle get to cross the border?

Canadian cattle can be forgiven for thinking their industry is cursed. On Dec. 29, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced that a devastating 19-month ban on live Canadian cattle would likely be lifted March 1, pending review by the U.S. Congress. Just a few hours later, the other hoof dropped: The Canadian Food Inspection Agency reported that, according to preliminary screening tests, a 10-year-old dairy cow from Alberta had tested positive for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) or mad cow disease. If these findings prove definitive, it would be the third case a Canadian-bred cow tested positive for BSE since May 20, 2003, when the U.S. ban that took effect.

Canadian officials were quick to say there is no risk to consumers from this latest case because the animal never entered the food chain and there is no evidence mad cow disease can be transmitted in milk. They also point out that the U.S. intends to inspect the border only to cattle under 30 months of age, which would consider at little risk of contracting BSE, but while regulators

canaries were clearing, until a possible new case of mad cow complicated the U.S. proposal to open its doors.

From both countries issued the move to lift the ban will go ahead—unless U.S. officials learn of the suspicious Canadian cow before they make their announcement—many Canadian cattlemen are concerned. Congressman Dennis Kucinich of Ohio, a member of the House Agriculture Committee, has introduced a bill that would ban imports of Canadian cattle. "It's a good bill," says Kucinich, "but it's not enforceable." The bill has already passed the House, but it's not clear if it will ever make it to the Senate.

For Canadian producers, it's a bit early to worry. The U.S. ban on live cattle, which has cost the Canadian industry an estimated \$3 billion in revenue, was supposed to be lifted in early 2004. These hopes were dashed when an Alberta-bred Holstein in Washington state tested positive for BSE on Dec. 23, 2003. Like many others, Seaman has a personal reason for dealing with the issue: "I'm not the best," he says, "and I prefer to let the worst."

BRIAN BURGESS

ScoreCard



NEW Harry Potter book tops Amazon.com's best-seller list, 10 months before release. In age, real dealers' plant books for the unanswering, and dealers abroad, such craving for the unanswerable is strong. Understatement



Postal officials have John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men* closing its libraries. Parents say great literature is under threat. A group of parents, the Savant Society, has started lending them. If alive here, Harry Potter likely has an order already at his new Harry Potter.



Leafy Newfoundlander Ray Redfern has come coming in with a laurel Canadian symbol on the rock it has as cut drops from the tree to be used for U.S. landmarks. Farmers wanting to travel recognize it.



Canada's Hugh guy gets conditional clearance for intravenous "cure" of AIDS. The drug, which is not yet available in Canada, is not yet available in the U.S. But it's not available in Canada. Steve Morris, who suffered three broken vertebrae and a compression fracture, has to say the same.

Quote of the week | 'The strange thing is we have not recorded any dead animals. No elephants are dead, not even a rabbit.'

Si Lankan wildlife official H. D. RATNAYAKE on the tidal waves that swept away so many human lives

Mansbridge on the Record



BEAUTY AT 30,000 FEET

You get an exhilarating sense of this vast country from high up in the air

IN ONE OF my lives before becoming your editor, winter was truly something to be feared for, perhaps because there was so much of it. I lived in Churchill, Man., and that meant the snow didn't leave till June; the nights were long and frigid, and the snow drifted high. Clouded planes and cold radios for any of the great north regional air lines of our past—Transair. The bulk of our business wasn't the flights south to more weekend getaway locations such as Winnipeg, but into the real North, the supply flights into the central and High Arctic.

The Churchill-based Transair family was small but rugged, and extremely dedicated—especially the pilot. I can remember more than a few Sunday nights when a party was interrupted by a call from some northern community in desperate need of medical evacuation. There could be a howling blizzard outside, and yet pilots who didn't have to head out to the airport and load up their DC-9s before a night flight wanted more discretion. I don't remember doing being a part of the rescue—not that it wasn't needed, just that methods weren't nearly as sophisticated as they are now. (I'm wrong about it being a night when the deicing procedure was so smooth, it took less time than the security check—and doesn't that say something about how times have changed?)

But thousands of sunnier days did something else to me—they confirmed any relationship with flying. I find it such a peaceful way to spend a few hours—no phones ringing, no emails beeping, no sudden decisions to make. And the view. Fellow

passengers must think I'm anti-social because I spend much time looking out the window. It was on one of those late-1980s trips into the High Arctic when I got hooked—I was flying toward Mould Bay and my Distant Early Warning station. But instead of looking outside at the expected endless lakes and hills and packed ice, I found myself captivated by spectacular mountain ranges where it wouldn't be normal for humans had ever climbed.

I've been pretty lucky in the last while. While most Canadians hunker down in year's end, heading out for the holidays and staying fairly close to home, I've been on the road, staying in every winter resort to it. Recently, I've been to Windsor, Ont., Halifax, Winnipeg, Ottawa, Vancouver, Calgary, Montreal, Charlottetown and, of course, Toronto.

While staring out of aircraft windows, I am often more busy. I count sections over the Rockies, trying to guess formations—they seem to have grown exponentially since I last did. I also have a family tree—long gone—upset. I judge a city's growth by the addition of new shopping centres—actually these days it's more big-box retail. But when I'm looking for something more meaningful, there's one sightline gaze that always fits the bill—looking down on hockey rinks big up in communities big and small, and the tiny figures who have chosen the outdoors over the arena to play their winter game. There are few sights more Canadian than that.

Those Thriller days are behind me now, but I still find a more than a little melancholy to watch from 30,000 feet as the country, with all its differences and similarities, challenges and accomplishments, speeds into below.

Come on, 2005. Bring it on. We're ready.

Peter Mansbridge is Chief Correspondent of CBC Television News and Author of *The Northern Testament* (Interlink Books).

FaceTime

CROSSING THE LINE
A veteran NHLer, though only with 25 years in the league, has recently written under his pen, on behalf of Salvo Italia, that he felt a low blow coming. Ross, 36, finished last season with the Ottawa Senators after a spending mess of a 15-17 TV deal. He was promised his usual other than sole GM director, head of the National Hockey League Players' Association. He was told the league had sold the regulate for lockout compensation.



ROSS The Italian is up to \$100,000 a month in AAVs, that was before he was quoted as an Ottawa Sun reporter as saying "I'd cross the line in a second." Shortly after, Ross was told by the NHLPA he would not be in the fund. He's now filed a lawsuit against the union in a New York state court.



SHARI She's still new, suffering from dementia, and perhaps a church group was paying the rent on her Detroit apartment. But the 75-year-old woman, who first started the American civil rights movement nearly 50 years ago when she was forced to

give up her seat on a Montgomery bus, is still a vibrant woman who still defends her good name. Lawyers for Rosa Parks say they are close to settling a five-year-old lawsuit with the 90-year-old woman over the use of her name in a song. The case, which would have tested the limits of how artists might use a well-known name, is now going to a trial. Parks' family has regularly upset that the Outkast song analogous to a racial epithet and a sexual harassment.

Two days ago a girl

Time Gallo, 26, died

the babies for

daughter, Camille

Anderson, a doctor,

her husband was

unable to conceive.

Camille underwent

hormone treatments

to have back her

biological clock and was implanted with three test-tube embryos. Then Camille and her husband all were born

healthy, but two months premature.

—Tracy Moore



BESIDE THE CALL is the mom or grandmother. A 55-year-old woman gave birth to her own grandchildren—triplets, in fact.

Photo: AP/Wide World Photos; Getty Images; AP/Wide World Photos

Today. Tomorrow. An investment plan shouldn't ignore one for the other.



INVESTMENT PLANNING IS ABOUT BALANCE.
To reach a financial destination without
compromising how you want to live today.

Traveling, sending your children to university, or a new home
may be your priority now. But within the coming years,
retirement will bring a new set of financial priorities.

ATB Investor Services understands this balance.
We hold the knowledge that has helped thousands
of Albertans build the right plan to fit their life. Or
fine-tune an existing plan to fit their changing priorities.



So think about your plan. Think about where you want to be
tomorrow, and what you want to do today. And think about
talking to ATB Investor Services. We're built on a
65-year history of helping Albertans balance both.



An hour with us could be the best
investment you've ever made.

To set a personal consultation with one of our professionals,
visit your local ATB Financial Branch or call 1-888 ATB 3863.

ATB Investor Services®

Your life. Your plan.

IRAQ With elections only weeks away, insurgents attack in Iraq continued to escalate. In one incident, Iraqi security forces were forced to a house on a tip, only to find it rigged with explosives. Nearly 30 police and civilians died in the blast, part of a day in which 54 Iraqi were killed by unknowns. The terrorist campaign seemed to be having an effect. The longest political party representing Iraq's Sunni minority pulled out of the election, a blow to the voter's credibility.

TERROR FRONT A new audiotape from Osama bin Laden urged Iraqis to boycott the Jan. 30 election and declared Jordanian-born terrorist Abu Musab Zarqawi to be al Qaeda's "emir" in the Iraq theater. At the same time, Washington accused Syria of acting as a weapons supplier for anti-U.S. militants in the region, a charge Damascus denied. And militants have invaded two symbolic sites in Saudi Arabia—the Ministry of the Interior in Jeddah and a training center for anti-government police.

TERROR JET The Washington Post reported that an executive jet, registered as a "ghost company" in the U.S. without identifiable owners, routinely whisked terror suspects from U.S. military bases to countries that the sources said. The newspaper's investigation suggested the jet is run by the CIA, which has used dummy companies in the past



SINCE A couple of hungry astronauts aboard the International Space Station, Russia's Saliout Sharapov and Leroy Chiao from the U.S., ate their way through too much of a stockpile of food intended to last for months, necessitating a resupply by an unscheduled spacewalk on Christmas Day. With the U.S. space shuttle program on hold, Russia has been picking up the cost of resupplying the ISS, but has now warned the

U.S. there will be no more free rides. Beginning in 2006 it will charge for bringing U.S. astronauts to the station.

NASA, meanwhile, rolled out a sleek new fuel tank for its shuttles, designed to eliminate the insulating foam that blew off and doomed the Columbia and its seven crew members as they were attempting to return to Earth in February 2003.

PENSION HEIST According to police, a massive bank heist in Northern Ireland just before Christmas may have been pulled off by the IRA, looking to build themselves a pension fund now that the organization is pledging to give up its weapons. In a daring robbery, thieves made off with the equivalent of \$53 million. The central bank is threatening to sender the bad banks by taking important denominations of notes out of circulation.

TAMPERING WITH HISTORY French police filed forged charges against three antiquities dealers and a collector, accusing them of forging several important biblical artifacts including the ossuary—a limestone burial box—said to have contained the remains of Jesus' brother James. The box was on display at Tel Aviv's Royal Ceramic Museum just over two years ago.

DOORS SHUT

For weeks they've been living out of their vehicles, staying in shelters like this one at a church in Athens, N.C., trying to beat last week's cold snap. Overall now, about 11,000 people have sought asylum in "pre-emptive" camps such as this one, 800 miles from the border. In each case, the number try to go the other way. Under new rules in both countries, most new refugees will be processed only where they arrive. Officials say it will reduce asylum seekers, but critics contend it will only lead to more people smuggling.



- Best-in-Class Towing*
- New Electronic Stability Program
- New Back-up Park Assist
- Best-in-Class Horsepower
- HEMI V-8 Engine*
- New HEMI V-6 Engine*
- New 11-Module Body Structure

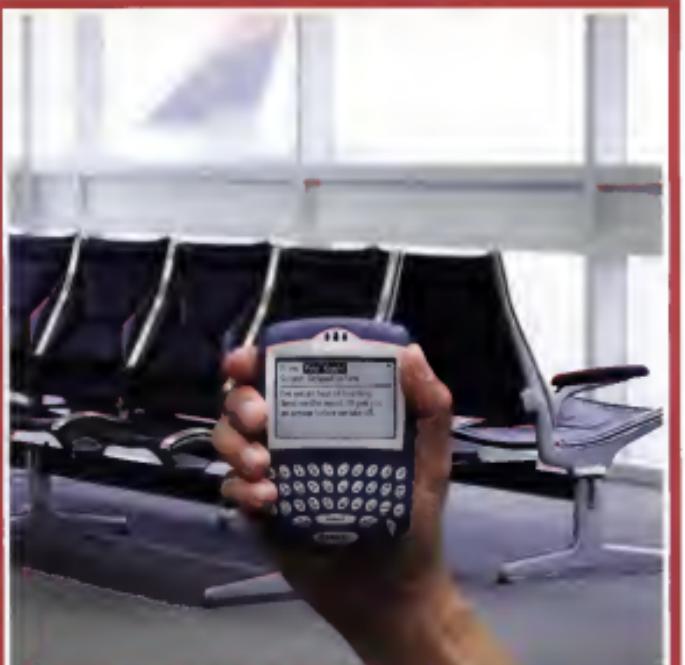
IF REINHOLD IS GOING



The all-new Jeep Grand Cherokee. There's more than meets the eye.

Whether you want to conquer a mountain or the concrete here, the Jeep Grand Cherokee is ready. With cutting edge technology like the Electronic Stability Program and an independent front suspension, the Grand Cherokee handles the road better than any Jeep ever has. And starting at just \$38,990* it's no wonder the off-road legend continues . . . on-road.

Jeep
jeep.ca



WE'VE REDEFINED WHERE YOU DO EMAIL

Call 800-221-1234 for details. Order online at www.247lockers.com.
Or visit us at www.247lockers.com for more information.
24/7 lockers are available in 100+ cities nationwide.
Call 800-221-1234 for details.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT ROGERS.COM/BLACKBERRY

© BlackBerry

□ WIRELESS

 ROGERS
Your World Right Now

SHOP AT ROGERS.COM, 1-800-462-4463, A ROGERS' WIRELESS, ROGERS PLUS OR ROGERS VIDEO STORE

UPFRONT

HEALTH

PREGNANCY Overweight women in the U.S. are more likely to become pregnant, U.S. researchers said, one explanation being that the amount of estrogen in modern contraceptive pills may not be enough for some. The pill needs to be 99 percent effective, though only if taken properly. The U.S. study suggested that of 300 women on the pill, at least two to four would become pregnant due to human error.

CANCER Icelandic researchers say certain cancers seem to have a higher inheritability rate than others, among them: breast, prostate, stomach, lung, colon, kidney and bladder. Of 27 cancers studied, 22 had some familial connection. Three—stomach, lung and colon—were also common among men, which indicates environmental factors could be a play.

CANADA

INTERNET PHARMACIES In a continuing crack down by provincial authorities, two B.C. doctors were fined the maximum \$25,000 each for signing prescriptions for Australian patients they never saw. B.C. has become the most aggressive provincial authority

INTERNET PHARMACIES In continuing crackdowns by provincial authorities, two B.C. doctors were fined the maximum \$25,000 each for signing prescriptions for Australian patients they never saw. B.C. has become the most aggressive provincial authority

harmless online drug buying. These do-
ers have more cracked than broken

MAILED Three Rottweilers and a collie, which may have attacked and killed three-year-old Cody Fortune at Maple Ridge, B.C., were being put down, RCMP said. Two were family pets, the other was once believed to be lost.

year-old Cody Fortune in Maple Ridge, B.C., are being put down, RCMP said. Two were family pets, the other two were being looked after while the owners were away. Police aren't sure how many of the dogs bit the toddler. They had escaped from a basement enclosure.

China's spy agency, CSB, told the government that certain countries are using their foreign students and visiting scientists to obtain commercially useful leading technology for military and economic advantage. It did not name names, but the National Post claimed the agency was referring primarily to China.

2006 Ontario's court of appeal upheld Ontario's anti-solicitation law forbidding doctors and other health professionals from engaging in sexual relations with patients, regardless of whether the act is commercial.



DECEPTIVE BEAUTY

The broken
Malaysian
flightpath. Sab-
reeding, like 2008
sinking off an
Andaman wildlife
sanctuary in the
Indonesia Sea. Six
crew died in last
month's wreck.
But is the environ-
mental impact is
now only today
fall: 1.6 million
birds of all species
enter the problem
waters, eight
times what was
first thought.



ANOTHER BROKEN PROMISE

A pledge to add 5,000 troops shows the limits of Canada's military capacity

IT WAS A VISIONARY election now, curiously crafted to appeal to our pride and idealism. And it has become the perfect, and example of the vast gap between what we say and what we can actually do on the international stage. Ottawa, promised the Liberal platform, would increase its armed forces "by 5,000 personnel, creating a knowledgeable and greatly enhancing Canada's capacity for peace support." A special peace brigade intended to be imaginative and, more importantly, a catalyst for the Troops' pledging now.

The differences were in the details. Former defence minister David Pitt had planned to ask cabinet for the decision to approve the extra troops. But, in the end, the notion of a separate brigade for peacekeeping was never born and the defence establishment. Who would train them? Where was the equipment for them and the housing? For that matter, where was the money going to come from? The annual \$1.5-billion budget can barely support the current 60,000-member regular force. Many of the answers landed those quibbles by late August, military leaders were gently reminded that the new defence minister had assured them they would get the funds.

Then the tale began to twist. By early October, the Throne Speech pledged to have "our regular forces by some 5,000 troops." No mention of that catchphrase. For military analysts, this was a relief because building a separate brigade from scratch, from scratch, from scratch, was, cost quickly and needlessly expensive. Instead, most of the new troops would eventually be

added to three existing, sorry brigades on three bases across the nation.

Don't hold your breath. Early last month, the vice-chief of the defence staff, Vice-Admiral Bill Beck, told the Senate security committee that a tell has not received the money to hire those troops. That would be, he hoped, with the coming 2003-2005 budget. Anyways, once he gets the funds, it would take five years to add them all. In carefully bland language, he claimed about the need for trainers and recruiters and equipment and housing there, all of those problems that many analysts had raised during the election. "I was shocked," says Liberal senior Colin Keay, the committee's chairman. "The Second World War would have been over by the time they're hired. That's a terrible way to show how far our defence capabilty has eroded."

In one image way, it's good the military has not yet recruited the troops—because the Liberals have not produced a defence policy. Our armed forces are supposed to play domestic, continental and international roles. Should we do that, exactly? How long would we be able to sustain troops in the field? Most defence experts say we should have a 75,000-member force to be truly effective. Is that our goal—when even 5,000 more sounds like a stretch?

"It's difficult to know where we are going and why we are going there if the government has not told the details about the forces," warns Alan Pollock, executive director of the Conference of Defence Association, a military advocacy group. "Pad Martin went to create a name for himself in foreign policy. If they do not have credible military forces, you will not go anywhere." It's right. The sign of the peacekeeping brigade is really only curiously talk about disease and realities. And, alas, political priorities. ■

Mary Janigan is a political and policy writer. maryjanigan.ca

Passages

SEED At 16, Montreal native Paul Mérinier lied about his age and spent 15 months on the front lines in Belgium and France, transporting ammunition, before his mother reported his true age to authorities. He was recognized a Royal Dragoon in England for the rest of the First World War. Mérinier died in Ottawa at 94.

AWARDED Calgary general Kyle Shewfelt, who returned to public inquiry to take home Canada's first gold medal at the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, was voted Canada's male athlete of the year by sports editors and broadcasters. Shewfelt, 22, who has been turning cartwheels since he was three, is the only Canadian to have won an Olympic medal for artistic gymnastics.

ENGAGED Figure skating brought them love and Olympic gold, not necessarily in that order. Now comes marriage. Canadian sweethearts Jamie Sale and David Pelletier, who have been skating together for almost 10 years (professionally), became engaged on Christmas Eve. They plan to tie the knot around this time next year.

BOOK Viewed as one of "the dark sides of American letters" for her often-controversial take on modernity, Susan Sontag was that rare intellectual who took up her pen seriously. The New York-born author of four novels and countless essays on everything from AIDS to photography died from complications of leukemia. She was 71.

DIED Jerry Orbach, the actor who, for 12 seasons, played Lenore Brinckerhoff, the tough, wisecracking cop on NBC's *Law & Order*, died in New York after a brief bout with prostate cancer. Born in Bronx, Orbach started acting at 16 and began his career in Broadway musicals. He was 69.

THE MACLEAN'S INTERVIEW



Middle East | JIM TORCZYNER, PEACE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

'PEOPLE TALKING ACROSS CHECKPOINTS'

MCGILL UNIVERSITY'S Middle East Program in Civil Society and Peace Building has a big name, a small budget—and a strong influence in the region. Launched in 1997, it unites Palestinians, Israelis and Jordanian social workers in Montreal—on the condition that, after they get their degree, they collaborate on helping the region's poorest residents. The goal: a network of people, usually divided by violence, working on common problems. Founded largely by the Canadian International Development Agency, the program also regularly brings together administrators of universities of all 10 government organizations serving the three communities—groups that otherwise rarely talk. Jim Torczyner, the program's founding director, travels often to the Middle East. As the June 9 election of a new Palestinian leader nears, he finds a fresh opportunity to mollify the hostiles.

Do you think there will be a better chance for peace after the Palestinian vote?

Much better. Whenever one thinks of the last chairman Arafat, it was clear nothing could happen while he was around. The election will give legitimacy to whatever

comes over and provide an opportunity to create a new reality. On the ground, in Jordan, Israel or Palestine, people are fed up with the bloodshed; they want to live normal lives. We've already begun to see more accommodation from both sides.

Is Canada doing enough for peace there?

We don't fit in either camp, but we've advanced clear principles about democracy, civil society and peace-building that we can help implement on the ground. Canada has crafted a unique role, and commands respect across the board.

—DERRICK ALLEN

Your program trains aid workers. Why do you call it a peace program?

The crisis in the Middle East is not primarily a religious conflict, but extremes of both faiths have found common cause in painting it that way. The people who seek tolerance and moderation have never worked together. We give them an opportunity to do that.

For instance?

If you're an Arab in East Jerusalem, it can take you up to a year to obtain social security. Elsewhere in Israel, it's one month. Now, our citizens in the two states have mounted a joint campaign for equal rights. Jews and Arabs addressing the Knesset together for equal rights for Arabs—it was unprecedented. Also, last summer we organized volunteers in Palestine and Jordan to visit our centres in Israel and Gaza. In Jerusalem they use 200 volunteers—Jews and Arabs—managing a food co-op together.

That's encouraging, but does it foster peace?

Peace will come from above the heads of politicians when people on both sides realize they have the same needs, the same rights, and the same principles getting those rights recognized. When that kind of desire comes from the grassroots, with people talking to each other across borders and checkpoints, we have a basis for normalized relations. For people who have a genuine interest in the ongoing conflict, I don't think our program is an overreach. But if opponents of peace understand the power of organizing from the grassroots around common causes, that will be useful.

As a few travelling extensively in the region, do you ever feel threatened?

Never. I feel more threatened by the occasional unfriendly look from people who have taken the extremist view here in Canada. I was in Jordan last summer, I met everyone, including those who are supposed to be aligned with. We never receive threats there.

Is Canada doing enough for peace there?

We don't fit in either camp, but we've advanced clear principles about democracy, civil society and peace-building that we can help implement on the ground. Canada has crafted a unique role, and commands respect across the board.

BEYOND WORDS

Tens of thousands die after tsunamis devastate Southeast Asia. The sheer scope of disaster left the rest of the world facing a crucial question: how best to help?

The scene in Banda Aceh, Indonesia. That country alone reported about 80,000 people killed.



On THE ASSEMBLY line of tragedy that was the Sri Lankan coast last week, millions of Tamils were enduring a special kind of hell. And if the sheer obscenity of their accute misery wasn't enough, survivors returned to their ruined towns to find skeletal, long-buried human remains mixed among the mounds of discarded—under captioned fishing boats, boats, collapsed houses and plumes beneath shattered chunks of wharf. "The town's coast guard are all here the coast," explains 40-year-old Jeffrey Uthamarthi, a Torontoonian raised in Batticaloa. "When a giant wave came, he says, they discovered corpses of local people who had been laid to rest generations ago, throwing all the bodies onto higher ground." "Now," he says, "they have to be sorted out."

Among the newly dead, a staggering 11 members of Uthamarthi's extended family, who were caught unaware as the earth quake driven surge demolished an uncle's house, became just a few metres from the shoreline. His brother, mother and father, who live in a different house, were able to escape. "For my mother wasn't goaded," he says. "She knew that if she opens a door, there's a good chance there'll be a body behind it."

AFTER initially offering only token amounts, western governments are opening up their treasures

Such is the nature of the calamity unfolding in South Asia, just when the horror reaches incomprehensible proportions, fate delivers more, robbing prospects of recovery seem like a distant dream. The disaster, caused by a 9-magnitude earthquake off the south east Indian Ocean, already counts as one of the worst in history, dwarfing any others known to have been caused by tsunamis. The killer waves battered a wide area that included the south shore of India, Myanmar, even the east coast of Africa. At week's end, the death toll was predicted to surpass 125,000 (next worse, by comparison, was a series of waves that struck Portugal after an earthquake in 1755, killing an estimated 66,000). Some 80,000 were lost in Indonesia, along with another 25,300 in Sri Lanka and 7,500 in India. Tourists vacating in Thailand's sun-drenched



THIS ISLAND PITS 900 ISLAND Dwellers suffered a direct hit from inside a beach resort in Penang, Malaysia. Tourists watched from a safe vantage point.



MIRACLES IN A TIME OF TRAGEDY

On Dec. 23, Mark MacLean arrived in Thailand for what he hoped would be the trip of a lifetime. Little did he know how that would be. At the time the tsunami struck, MacLean, vice-president of sales and marketing for Aetna, a U.S.-based health-care company covering the areas in Indonesia, was staying near the southern town of Ao Nang. He sent MacLean's full story:

ALL NIGHT I felt this great sense of urgency that I needed to get on the water as early as possible. Normally I'd go sleep in when I'm dealing with big log, but this time I set the alarm off I bought it on a while before leaving Canada for 8:30 a.m.—1½ hours before the earthquake. I was in the water 1½ hours later. I was so relieved I needed another tub of sunblock. I was annoyed, but decided to head to a world-famous beach and sunbathing centre called Kirby Beach. The ocean波浪 saved my life. When I got there, I saw what looked like a giant wave around four kilometers offshore. I shook my head and assumed I must be imagining things. Then the entire bay suddenly drained of water with a loud roar. I knew what was about to happen: I'd studied the phenomenon of tsunamis and have always been aware of the danger whenever I have travelled near the ocean. I looked for an escape route and saw a small leading up a hill. Confidence could get away if necessary, I then went back to the beach with my waterproof camera.

A wall of water around five metres high was moving into the bay. A motor cruiser maybe 1½ km offshore went straight up in the air on the wave. Four boats used to shuttle tourists were left in the bay. About 40 people jumped onto the exposed sea bottom and ran for safety as the wave destroyed those vessels. A few seconds later it hit shore and rushed into buildings as everyone ran up the hill. Then the bay was once again sucked dry. Soon after, a second and larger wave arrived, and destroyed more buildings on the beach. After this, several smaller waves hit, and over the next eight hours the bay repeatedly drained and then refilled, each cycle more grade than the last.

About an hour after the first wave, a group of hikers appeared along the exposed rocks. The bay had just emptied again, and people were screaming at them to run, as another massive wave would come. The hikers rescued a kayaker who had been out with his family and was badly scraped up. He said that when the sea went out, his group still had a few feet of water to float on, but were helpless as the wave came in. He survived, but I wonder where his family was. Three hours later, a second rescuer of his party armed buckets and hammers when this woman had managed to swim ashore to safety. But the waves had torn off her clothes and she had a deep gash in her thigh. How she managed to avoid bleeding to death while walking over sharp coral seemed almost miraculous. I located a paramedic friend in Krabi, and we transported her to a hospital. The woman told me she had tried to save her mother after the first wave, but the second wave pulled them apart and her mother had drowned. Her sister was missing and presumed dead.

Around 4 p.m., I headed back to Ao Nang. My hotel was partly destroyed, but I received word that a friend I had been expecting was in town, so I went to locate her. She had been on nearby Phi Phi Island, sailing with her two children and other family and friends, but had left when the tsunami struck on the 9 acre. The earthquake had already happened, but there were no seismic warnings. The ferry launched in Krabi, some five kilometers from Raya Beach, 10 minutes later and just a few minutes before the wave hit. She was the first passenger off the boat, and got in the first taxi. As in my case, she was considering caught by more waves.

Phi Phi Island was devastated. A huge wave destroyed the first two floors of the hotel and swept away more than 200 buildings. The boats in the harbour were wrecked. It was impossible to get sand on which to build temporary huts to stay. We found out more than 30 hours later they had left just minutes before the wave, and the tsunami passed under their huts. Another miracle, in this time of terrible tragedy. ■



playground of Phuket survived by climbing to palm trees, while until thousands in northern Sumatra were engulfed in their homes. Many victims had no idea what hit them.

All organization and the international community knew their job now—sourcing corps, buying the dead, finding homes for orphaned children. The question is where to start. "It's just horrendous," says Roger Markowski, humanitarian program co-ordinator for Oxfam International, speaking from Medan, Sumatra. "Money is no longer the issue. We now have to look at the best possible ways to help these people." In parts of Indonesia, he notes, the force of the waves wiped out entire communities, killing tens of thousands and leaving all more displaced. Medan, a river of 120,000 on Sumatra's northeast tip, was thought to have been obliterated, with an estimated 40,000 dead, missing or injured. "We have to start a community from scratch, as bulldozers dig mass graves nearby." To go there, says Markowski, a Montrealer, "you have to be very strong psychologically."

Under the best of circumstances, getting help to the affected regions will be rough. Many survivors simply hatched roads and airstrips to support a major aid effort, while other places, like northern Sri Lanka, have been cut by long-running civil wars, which have a way of turning crises into political fact. But until last Tuesday—one day after the tsunami hit—humanitarian groups and governments still stalled from Sumatra's western Aceh province, where the Indonesian government has been waging a three-decade war against rebels. Add the damage wrought by the waves, and you have an uneasy guessing game: dozens of towns were cut off in the water-wiped-out roads and phone lines, so relief workers must now reach them to determine the extent of the damage. "This isn't something like a hurricane, where people have some notice, and are able to prepare," says Suzanne Chesser, spokesperson for the Canadian Red Cross. "That's what makes this one exceptional, and the level of destruction in some communities—the death toll—it's really quite unbearable."

If there's good news, it's the sudden abundance of cash to fund relief efforts. After initially offering token amounts, western governments have opened up their treasuries to the true scale of the disaster emerged. The \$123 million pledged by the Indonesian community early in the week steadily bul-



INCENSE BURNED next to the bodies in a Thai temple that became a makeshift morgue

lored in ensuing days, with Ottawa locking in \$40 million, putting a moratorium on debt owed by tsunami hit countries, and promising to match dollar for dollar donations made to NGOs over and above the \$44 million. Aid organizations were swamped with donations, including some \$14 million to the Canadian Red Cross and larger amounts to organizations like Oxfam, World Vision and the Salvation Army. At a Toronto Tamil radio station, children arrived with page books, helping raise some \$750,000 intended for northern Sri Lanka. "We're

not even a charity, so we can't give receipts," says Jayashankar Sivadas, chief executive of the Canadian Tamil Broadcasting Corporation. "So this is really remarkable."

Politics, as ever, has reared its head where aid's concerned. Sivadas' reason is that his station is directing its message to the north because it respects the Sri Lankan government, dominated by southern Sinhalese, as withholding aid from northern Tamils. "We've been fighting this government 30 years," he says. "If you give them the money, they're going to take care of their own." With these sentiments in mind, Red Cross, Oxfam and World Vision officials say they've determined their portion of the aid will reach the needy to supply potable water, antibiotics and latrines. And in a positive sign, the Indonesian government declared a ceasefire with its rebels, allowing relief agencies to move into the region—a deal that could prove pivotal if it holds. UN officials are planning a New Year's appeal they may exceed US\$1 billion. The trace will help resource countries who doubt their

money is reaching those who need it most.

No amount of funds, however, can ease the anguish of families around the world waiting for word from loved ones. Ultra-endurance is among scores of Toronto-area Sri Lankans who worked the phone lines of contacting family far, far away because the news was tragic, by press time, Foreign Affairs officials had confirmed the deaths of four Canadians, with another in 85 missing or unaccounted for. Some may never be found, a federal government source acknowledged in an interview with Maclean's. Given the health threat posed by the decaying bodies, it's possible that remains will be buried before they are identified. "If the authorities have the impression from the appearance of a body that it is a tourist, we're told they will most likely set aside for identification," the source said. "But you can understand the position they're in."

Many of those who did survive have continued relatives with tales ranging from the

UNDER the best of circumstances, getting aid to the affected regions will be tough. Some places lack roads.

WAVES OF MASS DESTRUCTION

ON MARCH 27, 1964, even if B.C. residents knew that neighbouring Alaska had just had a major earthquake, they likely hadn't noticed what was headed their way. The quake, the largest to strike North America, released energy the equivalent of 12,000 Hiroshima-type atomic bombs and it changed the ocean floor. This massive change generated an enormous tsunami, which eventually surged out from Prince William Sound and across the Pacific Ocean. At 4½ hours, the wave travelled 5,000 km from its epicentre 130 km southwest of Anchorage. As it sped down the west coast of Vancouver Island, it caused relatively little damage until it reached the Alberni inlet. There, two miles down the island, the waves piled up in the narrowing waterway and, travelling at 300 km/h up the channel, crashed into Port Alberni. The second of the six waves to hit was the most damaging, cresting three metres above the high tide mark. Hoadley was killed, although damage to property and industry amounted to some \$1 billion (1964 dollars).

Today, it's far less likely that such a tsunami could take it. By surprise, the Alaska quake led to the establishment in 1967 of the West Coast & Alaska Tsunami Warning Center at Palmer, Alaska. British Columbia receives detailed warning about any potentially dangerous tsunamis from the Hawaii-based International Tsunami Warning Center, which works closely with the U.S. Intergovernmental Co-operation Group.

The devastating phenomena are also the subject of much scientific study. Although once known as "tidal waves," they are related to the tides, and in the 18th century Japanese wind banners, which meant "tsunami wave," was widely adopted. The waves are generated when a disturbance of the earth's crust—volcanoes and tsunamis, as well as earthquakes—displaces water. Waves formed as a result then radiate outward in concentric rings.

Scientists can determine how fast a tsunami moves, in deep open water, the waves can travel at more than 600 km/h, and over large distances without great loss of energy. In 1960, a 9.5 magnitude earthquake off Chile generated a tsunami that caused destruction in Japan. As tsunamis approach

shore, they slow down, but the height of the waves increases. Still, unlike some artistic images of tsunamis, they usually come in as a rapid rise in the water level, not an giant walls of turbulent water.

Tsunamis have been generated in all of the world's oceans and seas. Seismic waves from an earthquake can even create water-level oscillations, known as seiches, in

B.C.'S VULNERABLE COASTLINE



TOP: B.C. AND ALASKA EXPERIENCED FRESH TSUNAMIS MARCH 27, 1964. BOTTOM: A COASTAL FORTRESS, THE LEGENDARY FORT ROGEL, WAS BUILT IN 1860 TO DEFEND PORT ALBERNI, B.C. (PHOTO: GUY LAWRENCE, TOP; COURTESY OF THE B.C. ARCHIVES, BOTTOM)

faraway enclosed bays and inlets.) Scientists have recently determined that a giant underwater landslide also generated a huge tsunami in the Norwegian and North Sea about 1,200 years ago. In 1852, an earthquake struck Jamaica, resulting in a tsunami that wiped out the town of Port Royal. And in 2004, an offshore earthquake sent a tsunami crashing into Newfoundland's Placentia, killing 27.

Most tsunamis occur in the Pacific. Not only does that ocean cover more than one-third of the earth's surface, it is surrounded by the "ring of fire"—the most seismically active area on the planet. Part of it lies off the B.C. coast, where the earth is moving. Join the Pacific Tsunami Plate mass westward—moving North America clockwise. While scientists have a better understanding of the forces at work, they still face a mystery of predicting when the next big earthquake will occur. They can only say how long it will take for any resulting tsunami to reach shore. BARBARA WICKENS

inspirational to the outright bizarre. Doug and Jose Glover of Trail, B.C., read with disbelief an email sent by their 35-year-old son, Mike, who was on his way to Krabi, Thailand, when the waves tossed his car into a construction site. "The car tipped about 45 degrees onto a retarding wall with a bunch of pieces of metal sticking out of the top," Glover said in an e-mail. "Once I then punched through the car door and into my side." When the water receded, he said, the car righted itself and the six he stopped off—part of a still in Glover's mind! Fortunately, it punctured only skin and lay inactive. After a long wait at a nearby hospital, a doctor removed the bone and fixed him up.

Mels VonderKam of Kitchener, Ont., narrowly escaped the tsunami while kayaking in southern Thailand near Phi Phi Island, an area made famous by the Leonardo Di Caprio movie, *The Beach*. The 43-year-old executive of a high-tech company had been on the surge, building several kilometers out to sea, yet didn't believe his eyes. By blind luck, he went ashore to buy some supplies and was able to escape the waves. "I recall being caught by just resonance, as did my friends," he said in an email from the storm area of

JUST WHEN the horror seemed to reach incomprehensible proportions, fate delivered even more

As Nang, where he was staying. "The earthquake was probably building pressure for thousands of years. If it had let go 10 min earlier, I would not be writing that account right now."

Such stories circulated readily last week, powered in large part by the Web. But it was also the Internet that put focus to the tragedy, because for every close call there seemed to be a striking photo of the missing, along with family members' plan for information on their whereabouts. These pages—littered with the smiles of the departed—served as reminders of how close a cataclysmic event on the other side of the Earth can seem in an age of global travel and satellite communication. The waves wrought by last week's earthquake might have stopped on distant shores, but their impact has registered around the world. □



SOME TIMELY SUGGESTIONS

Donations to help victims of the floods can be made through any of the following charitable organizations:

Alternatives

3700, avenue du Parc, bureau 300,
Montreal, Que., H3X 1J1
1-866-234-1633
www.alternatives.ca

Canadian Centre for Intermediary Studies and Cooperation

3105 Rachel St. East,
Montreal, Que., H3C 1A3
1-877-875-2324
www.ccc.ca

Canadian Foodgrains Bank

406-201 Stretton St., P.O. Box 787,
Winnipeg, Man., R3C 2L4
1-800-466-8177
www.foodgrainsbank.ca

Canadian Lutheran World Relief

3055 Keelebury Ave.,
Winnipeg, Man., R3P 1W5
1-800-643-2507
www.clwr.org

Canadian Red Cross Society

379 McRae St., Suite 300,
Ottawa, Ont., K2P 3Z2
1-800-428-5111 or contact your local
Red Cross office
www.redcross.ca

Care Canada

8 Dufferin St., Suite 200,
Ottawa, Ont., K2B 7X6
1-800-257-5322
www.care.ca

Christian Reformed World Relief Committee

3475 Mimico, P.O. Box 5070,
5th Floor 1,
Markham, Ont., L7R 2Y8
1-800-738-2490
www.crcrc.org

Have you or someone you know been personally affected by the tsunami disaster? Tell us your story at www.ichoice.ca/taunami



LES X REVOLT

A new conservative wave has the old-timers worried, writes BENOIT ALBIN

TAKE A FEDERAL ELEPHANT, send a through a cultural minefield in Quebec, and enjoy the raw as the explosion lights up a new political scene.

In this instance, the elephant was the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission, the minefield the radio-crazed, French-speaking heartland of Quebec City, and the explosion came when the CRTC tried to shut down a local radio station. Six months later, CHQR FM is thriving like never before and Jeff Pilon, the shock jock at

the heart of the controversy, is enjoying some newfound clout. The incident has brought a slight new political landscape that has been quietly taking shape in Quebec's capital and its outlying regions. Pilon has emerged as a key mouthpiece for a right-wing political stream, the likes of which Quebec has not seen in a long time.

The CRTC decision, which is currently

on hold pending a court appeal, was not unexpected. CHQR FM's hosts had violated the rules by repeatedly crossed the border of what is acceptable on the airwaves.

What was unexpected was the reaction in the dead of winter, 50,000 come out to protest in support of Radio X (as CHQR, owned by Groupe

Where the CRTC
intervened, CHQR's
supporters came out
in a show of force

were, more interested by more than just the issue of a favorite on personality.

"There is a political side to Pilon's message, but that was lost in the swirl of controversy," says

Quebec | >

Fredrick Tita, 37, a philosophy professor at a local CEGEP and a supporter of Pilon. "The debate focused on outrage over commercial radio has unraveled over the years, but his political views were lost on everyone, except those long in his listening area." And those views are ones apart from the social-democratic ethos commonly as sonorous with Quebec.

Pilon himself describes his X as follows: "They're an interesting animal—you can't describe them by their look or their age, though there are a lot of thirty-somethings among them. It's more an attitude. They're people who have become allergic to the sacrosanct consensus, they've fed up with the inertia and it's a complacency, they're people who have realized the years ahead will be a load of shit and they're the ones who'll have to clean up the mess. They're people who are fed up with the Puritan view of the world, tired of living a society where the real power is union leader Jean-Marc, no matter who gets elected. That's a society where I can take my dog to a petro clinic, but not my mom. If she's old, goes flat, lies in the past with retrograde ideas and reformations could go away, we'd be a bit less angry already."

That's shock-jock talk all right but in Quebec City? But the trade in the results is easy. A 200-Club, and watch the X example. For Pilon holds down the apparatus heartland of Lévis-St-Jean—and his father was an early blue Quebec MP so, what's up?

Mrs. Pilonius, an auteur in her 50s who used to teach at a local junior college, says she understands Radio X's appeal—especially to the young. "They like what they hear, and it's not just the music," she says. "Youth has changed. It used to be that CEGEP students were leftists, and idealistic. But the kids today don't believe in much. It's the end of utopia, that's the name of May '68 in Paris, of Jean Bérenguer, the farm matt, all that."

At the protest last July, in X bought \$1,000,000 worth of caps and T-shirts with a big black X embossed on them. Such



"You see there's been a party," Pilon says, "but the plates and bottles are empty."

Items have kept moving briskly since then, according to the station, unaffiliated (meaning it in Quebec City is not run by a sports or X bumper sticker—here, radio listeners are a sizable force. Marketing experts expect that with some accuracy who is attracted to Radio X. "We call them the listeners, and they're quite a large group, maybe 20 per cent of the population," says Céline Bérubé, who works for CROP, the polling and marketing firm in Montreal. "In a nutshell, they are people who have stopped believing in politicians' promises, in the social contract. They're Darwinian

you look after yourself. They live in the here-and-now, and are not afraid of world civil disbandments."

The demographic may be limited, but it's provide a solid fan base for CHQR's unique package of sad rock, blaring ads, mind-numbing sound effects—and talk. Over the last few years, Pilon has slowly morphed from a goofy Howard Stern wannabe-slash-Lamough. "We used to do really trashy stuff, like a very wide search for the man with the smallest penis, but not anymore," he told Maclean's. In mid, shoddy Pilon is mapping at "the amateur, the sub-cultural culture, the far out culture, the underground discourse, the bars in [the ready Meets] district of] Quebec City Royal."



VICTORY DELAYED

The opposition won, but the old guard is not going gently

IT WAS SUPPOSED to be over—a new, legitimate presidential election, and victory, according to most indications, for opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko. He did win, taking 52 per cent of the votes compared to 44 per cent for Viktor Yanukovich. But Yanukovich—who at week's end stepped down as prime minister—refused to accept the result. And so the Orange Revolution continued, with Yanukovich's opponents blocking government buildings.

Borrowing a page from the opposition's book, Yanukovich turned to the country's Supreme Court, which had nullified the final tally Nov. 21, voted and ordered the second round. Given voting irregularities—claims that controlled voting stations—Yanukovich argued the results declared invalid. The parties turned him down, so did the Central Election Commission, with which Yanukovich had also lodged complaints that Yanukovich said further legal challenges would follow, although he held out little hope of success. Yanukovich, meanwhile, prepared for governing—issuing instructions he intended to sweep away much of outgoing president Leonid Kuchma's regime as possible. Among his plans: replacing the 10 governors in eastern Ukraine who had threatened to form an autonomous region if the opposition won.

Yushchenko and his team are pressing for the business of governing

Meanwhile, preparations for the new president are under way. The most prominent is the formation of a new government, which is likely to be headed by former prime minister Yulia Tymoshenko. She has been a thorn in Yanukovich's side since he became president in 2004, and she has been instrumental in the opposition's success. She is also a popular figure, with a large following among the young. Her supporters believe she can bring about a change in the country's direction, away from the corruption and cronyism that has plagued the government for so long. They also believe she can help to bring about a more democratic and transparent government, one that is accountable to the people. They are hopeful that she will be able to achieve these goals, and they are looking forward to seeing what she can do for the country.



THE YEAR IN RUMOURS

Bay Street's gossip mill worked overtime in 2004, and mostly got it wrong.

RUOMURES ARE MORE FUN than reality? Oh sure, analytical firms have the advantages of reliability and accuracy, if that's what you're into. But they don't have the seductive power of whispered theories passed in confidential phone calls and over busy lunches. And while proven figures may actually denote the course of events, it's rumour and innuendo that provide the scenario. That's why 2004 was such a fun year in the world of business: it may have been a time of momentous change, but the gossip made it far more fun.

Was a lot less happening behind the scenes.

Still, it had not to be disappointed looking back at the big news of 2004. Many of the housing issues obviously didn't pan out.

The Target Corp.'s bold entry into the Canadian market, for example, The Globe and Mail revealed in August that the Minneapolis-based retail chain was in advanced talks to acquire Hudson Bay Co. The groups and the deal was as good as done, but bungles with visitors of Target's ex-home Michael Graves toaster ovens under the wire were stuck with the same old Hudson Bay blues instead. The story triggered a jump in NBC's share price, but investors hoping for a take-over-prepared payoff have some way to go yet.

Maybe Target was getting ready to buy HBC, but something killed the deal. Maybe it will end up buying HBC yet. Who knows? Who cares? The investment bankers and brokers, who profit say these days can stir up speculative trading, got the headlines they were looking for. Besides, we all quickly move on to the next juicy bit of gossip.

Investors never seem to tire of mergers, even state and federal ones like the suggestion that Cisco Systems might buy National Networks [National Post, June 18]. Some come up as regularly as they could be compiled into a "greatest hits" collection of business newscasts. Speculation about the health of U.S. federal reserve chairman Alan Greenspan, for instance, never gets boring. Last spring, internet bulletin boards spread word that the 78-year-old central banker had suffered a heart attack, which forced the Fed to postpone its annual meeting the subsequent weekend [USA Today, July 23].

MANY OF the hottest stories didn't pan out. Those hoping for a Target-exclusive Michael Graves toaster oven under the tree got the same old Hudson's Bay blanket.

He is this country's favorite corporate collector, and whenever a company is for sale or in bankruptcy protection, somebody will tell you firmly that Schwarz is going to buy it. So it came as no surprise when, on April 11, the *Street* first reported that the founder was "talking the time" at his Concord, preparing a bid for the then-wobbly airline. Also, without delay, Schwarz said he had no plans to join the Air Canada fray.

conqueror get it first to success. As a result, news sources opt to simply reflect the chaotic marketplace of ideas and theories—constantly sprouting, throwing all over there, for you to sort through.

You'll want to remember this next time you dig into the latest market report: the financial managers are good at blowing smoke, but not so hot at sniffing it out. And if you're thinking 2004 was fun, bold, creative, and innovative, it's 2005 could be even better. ■

Businessové teníčko: webové "All Business," www.allbusiness.com

company was expected to convert into an income trust—a suggestion made by a handful of hedge-fund managers who thought such a move would send the stock soaring. Instead, Mannion's Bell bought Allstream, another telco, for \$17 billion to compete head-on against Bell Canada. For the same reason, this wasn't just a slight misreading. They completely missed the company's direction, and the stock tanked.

So why do we learn it names? Literally everyone I know for a gimped behind the scenes. But the sad truth is, a lot of what gets tested around during these confidential phone calls and lunch hookups is self-serving risk-averse. Traders and investment bankers need to create buzz to spark trading volume and drive deals forward. But players need to not satisfy editors and game readers so the snafu gets plugged in. It's a symbiotic relationship in which market players agree to speculate and reporters agree to take their speculations seriously.

Scarcened market pros have a highly developed bullish reflex, so many average investors make the mistake of believing the chart. They don't realize that at some point during the advent of 24-hour news channels, news calls up and orders daily boards, the financial news bureaus change. In today's media environment, getting a swingin' performance, but letting your competitor get it first is unacceptable. As a result, news sources opt to simply reflect the chaotic marketplace of ideas and theories—constantly sprouting, throwing all over there, for you to sort through.

You'll want to remember this next time you dig into the latest market data: the numbers managers are good at blowing smoke, but not so hot at sniffing it out. And if you thought 2004 was fun, hold on, because market may have in 2005 could be even better. □



Learning can happen anywhere.

Celebrate Family Literacy Day,
January 27

Set aside family time to read with your children. Help them become good readers and good learners. For family literacy tips, activities and event information, visit www fld-jaf ca.



THE DVD WAR

Two tech titans are replaying the VHS vs. Betamax fight.

AS VENUES GO, Las Vegas isn't a bad choice for the year's biggest video fight. This week, at the huge Consumer Electronics Show, two rival groups of tech and entertainment heavyweights will debut the next generation of DVDs. In one corner is the big, backed by Sony, on the other, Toshiba's HD-DVD. Both formats promise more vibrant sound and video to take advantage of the new high-definition TV sets, massive storage space for inter-active features, and better copy protection to ward off pirates. And while the pretenses are gone, so are the stakes: the laser discs millions squandered on R&B, the winter game

control of a US\$20-billion DVD hardware industry. It's business VHS all over again.

Technically, there isn't much difference between the two new formats. Both use blue lasers—instead of the red in conventional CDs and DVDs—to burn much larger capacities of data onto discs. And both sets of new players will accept DVDs—although you'll have to switch your movie collection to see the entertainment. Yet despite their similarities, the Rivals are incompatible. In time, the market will edge one or the other, and at the CES the two groups will argue how they're different—and better. "They're in a dead heat now," says Michael Goodman, an analyst with the Yankee Group. "At the show, they're going to try and outwit the other and rants of roulette."

What are the respective pluses? The Blu-ray camp emphasizes capacity: a double-layer disc will hold about 50 GB of data—enough space for all three episodes of *The Lord of the Rings*, movies, commentaries and video games. The format has the backing of Dell and Hewlett-Packard, the world's twobiggest PC makers. Toshiba, meanwhile, is allied with NEC and Sony, and claims

cheaper production costs as HD-DVD's main advantage. Because the discs are the same physically as existing DVDs, manufacturers will be able to use much of the same tools to press batches of the laser blockbuster.

But it seems the deciding factor will not be manufacturers, or even consumers, but Hollywood. Conventional wisdom suggests the format with the most movie titles will appeal to the most buyers—and win the fight. "Manufacturers have been shifting back and forth," says Eddie Chan, an IDC Canada analyst. "For a while it looked as though HD-DVD had the edge, but now it's tied again." The only major studio left uncommitted is 20th Century Fox. Still, none of the agreements are binding, and the suits could still sue allegiances at any time.

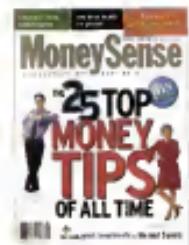
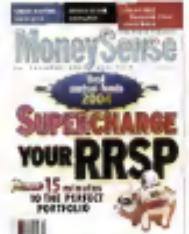
The war's over, though, says Barker's Goodman. If both formats hang around for years, buyers would be reluctant to invest in a technology that could become obsolete soon. "The sell will slow down," he says, "and the economics of scale won't look as positive as sales are split," he says. "That means higher prices longer."

Eventually, though, one format will come out on top, says Goodman, relegating its rival to the pitiful oblivion of obsolescence. Until that winner emerges, however, you'd better be ready with conventional DVDs. □

THE RIVALS' VITAL STATISTICS

	BLU-RAY	HD-DVD
CAPACITY	25 to 50 GB	15-30 GB
HOLLYWOOD	Disney, Columbia, MGM, Paramount, Universal, Warner, New Line	
NETS	2006	late 2006
ADVANTAGE	Computer readability, lower production costs	

ILLUSTRATION BY SAM WISE



Save 35%*

when you subscribe to MoneySense

MoneySense is Canada's best-selling investment and lifestyle magazine. **MoneySense** will bring you the easy-to-understand, intelligent, timely and respected advice you need to help make informed decisions in all areas of your financial planning.

Every issue is loaded with trustworthy and practical ideas with new ways to save, invest and spend wisely. Join over 836,000 readers every issue who benefit from our insights into...

- **real estate**... that first home, trading up, vacation or investment properties
- **minimizing taxes**... why pay more than you should
- **home improvement**... increase your home value
- **investment choices**... stocks, mutual funds, GIC's
- **retirement options**... enjoying the rewards
- **wise spending**... getting full value for every dollar

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

www.moneysense.ca/order Call 1-866-268-6868

Earn more, save more, and get your money working for you like never before!

Attention Rogers Customers

You can add MoneySense to your Rogers Cable or Rogers Wireless account for a low, convenient, monthly amount. [at www.rogers.com/magazines](http://www.rogers.com/magazines)

Priority Subscription Order Form

MoneySense

YES, start my subscription now!

2 years (12 issues) - \$34.95* 1 year (6 issues) - \$19.95*

1 year 2 years

Address

City

Province

Postal Code

SEND NO MONEY NOW!

CD 2002 was made by the CRTC for \$600,000.00 (minimum) with 50% LIP-BIE. CDR 2003 was made by the CRTC for \$600,000.00 (minimum) with 50% LIP-BIE. Offer valid in Canada only. Expires December 21, 2006. Other restrictions may apply. If you order online, we will not receive your name or address. Please check here if possible. 4015



BIG FIVE, SMALL PLAYERS

Our banks have missed the global express train. It's time to catch up.

CANADA'S FINANCIAL sector is ill at ease with speculation about its future. The expected transformation has barely started, but once it does it will mean re-examining of the industry's key elements, especially banking, which has failed spectacularly to establish the international clout in response to compare in the 21st century. The banking community's realization that, having so far missed the global express train, it must catch up or surrender its claim to greatness is prompting some dramatic new thinking. If the banks can't break out of their comfortable but confining status quo, they're toast.

Until recently there was something vaguely un-Canadian about the financial sector going international: our bankers displayed scant energy and imagination abroad, they might be expected to behave with equal dullness. That would never do, with their domestic monopolies guaranteed by legislation, they have done little more thanrown their pride and stoked their sense of entitlement.

Suddenly, they're in a fight and flight mode, desperately searching to secure their future by expanding outside Canada's borders, mainly by buying US assets, where the big banks have earned themselves two giant fiscal ecosystems that defy the conventional boundaries traditional to their trade. Money flows are no longer tied to the exchange of tangible goods and services, but to the intangible movements of wealth and leverage that determine global markets.

In Canada, we still regard the chameleons of the Big Five as corporate titans, on a world scale they're grown, hardly considered serious players. Their owned assets of the 49th are dismal. (With the possible exception of the Bank of Nova Scotia's foray into Mexico, the Canadian banks' international strategies have been conducted in relative destruction and a protectionist, not for profit, closed club.) So conclude York University's Schulich School of Business professors Charles McMillan and James Darnell in a tough chapter written for the revised edition of *Canada and Globalization: The New World*



Charles McMillan
revolutionized
a once-sleepy
enterprise

Economic Order,
being published
this spring. "It
seems logical that

given the Canadian banks' patchy financial performance, their failed efforts in the US, and a growing list of possible scandals, Canadian firms like Manulife Financial Corp and Power Corporation of Canada have become global superstars. The world is increasingly a single online system. Financial services is a biggest industry, larger than oil, steel and consumer durables combined.

The only sensible approach to this paradigm shift, the bankers contend, is to reduce the Big Five to a Big Three, so that we

rapids the Prime Minister's Office with a shifty minority. It's not about to refuse having to move out of 14 Sussex, just to please the Canadian Bankers Association.

Found was that an unavoidable obstacle, the bankers have come up with what they believe would be a more sensible—and more doable—solution. Their strategy has been set, to isolate that the next revision of the Bank Act, due in 2006, permits cross-piller mergers that would allow, to put it in random example, the Royal and Manufacturers Life Insurance (Manulife) to merge and form a killer combo that would ideally fit the dimensions of the new global economy.

There have been no negotiations and all of the principals deny any intent, but the example isn't exactly random. The key is an acronym expected to become a household word, but more accurately a Laurentian bank, this tag over Manulife to 1994. It has since diversified through buying, moving its market capitalization from \$9 billion to \$44.3 billion, and expanded operations on every continent. Its greatest coup was to purchase the string of French John Hancock Financial Services Inc., now a wholly owned subsidiary of Manulife.

Canadian banks are already active in most of the financial pillars. That includes securities lending, insurance and trust companies, which they have absorbed or put out of business, and especially investment dealing, where they have taken over just about every big trust brokerage that matters. What sticks in their craw is that even though they can insurance companies (the Royal, for example, ranks in Canada's Top 10 in life insurance underwriting), they cannot cross-sell such products. (In the U.S., the industry has been almost completely deregulated, allowing banks to sell insurance over their counters and wiping out the remaining differences between commercial and investment banking.)

An amalgamation of home land is in the air, and that time the politicians may not be able to stop it. Bank of Canada governor David Dodge has hinted that such data manner and that "efficiency must be at the heart of the debate." In the end, only two banks are safe from raiders: First Bank and Suncorp Bank. The future of every other Canadian bank is on the table, open for bids.

CANADA'S BANKS ON THE INTERNATIONAL STAGE

Banker worldwide ranking by assets

1. Manulife Financial Group (Manulife)	\$1.47 trillion
2. Chase (J.P. Morgan)	\$1.44 trillion
3. HSBC (Great Britain)	\$1.45 trillion
4. Royal Bank of Canada	\$598 billion
5. Bank of Nova Scotia	\$404 billion
6. Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce	\$291 billion
7. Toronto-Dominion Bank	\$262 billion
8. Bank of Montreal	\$260 billion

Source: The Banker, 2005. Figures in billions of US dollars.

MACLEAN'S SUBSCRIBER SERVICES

DO IT ALL ONLINE

Maclean's online customer service is secure, fast and available 24/7. Plus, get *Storyline*, Maclean's free weekly e-newsletter when you sign up online.

macleans.ca/service

[Subscribe or renew](#)

[Pay your bill](#)

[Check account status](#)

[Change mailing address](#)

[Order gift subscriptions](#)

[Purchase back issues](#)

[Read Privacy Policy](#)

[Join Web Panel](#)

And much more...
all totally secure

MACLEAN'S

 **ROGERS**
You Home. Your Life.

Peter C. Newman's column appears monthly
www.macleans.ca/columns/petercnewman

WEDNESDAY | JANUARY 18, 2006

IS ANYBODY THERE?

Modern life makes friends more important than ever—but a lot harder to find

LIKE MANY women I know, I vowed when I was younger that I'd never be like my mother. And like many of those women, I can see my mother looking back when I look in the mirror. There's a baseline that's high at the temples, a chronic case of the fidgets, you name it. It's that same cruel difference—an attitude I suddenly find myself sharing, even, to make some new friends.

Three years ago, we threw an 80th birthday party for my dad. It was a small gathering, but in some ways an extraordinary one: eight couples, all in their 50s odd years, all

friends for nearly as long. They had a shared history of good times, bad jobs, and tolerating one another's quirks. Still, there were shifting alliances over the years, and some became closer for awhile, then another. But there was always that core group, and this night there was a sense in the room of just how special it was. It would be the last time they were all together like that. In the early spring of 2002, my parents died just four weeks apart. They were removed by their wonderful friends they'd known virtually their entire adult lives.

Maybe I'll be lonely—if I have no one to distract me right now. I'm desperately close to becoming a hermit. Oh, I have people with whom I can go to a movie or baking or some such. But in my friend Radhika's case, we have friends for a season, a season, or a life time. You expect those first two types to come and go, but the last group? I was transferred to Vancouver, another house across the hill, as well as a new job and new houses out in the suburbs, and might as well be in Vancouver. Ashish, a former six-figure-a-year Bay Street lawyer, is no less busy now than she's a full-time soccer mom. A dearth of friend's husband is a goodly one, and it is only natural that I'd dropped out of her life of privilege. Email and long-distance phone calls make it easy to stay in touch with all of them, but there is no substitute for a sit-down, for just picking up the phone and saying, "Hey, let's grab a coffee."

Again, I can't help but think about my parents' disappearing world. After spending the last few years of their married life in Vancouver, they moved to Burnaby, Ont.,

a giant Las Vegas head—Lunch or dinner, take your pick.

Part of that stems from the exiled posture friends hold in our lives today. With family members sometimes thousands of miles away, nearly 40 per cent of marriages ending in divorce and individuals who live by themselves constituting the fastest-growing type of household in Canada, friends are many people we do form family. Popular culture reflects that change. Early icons like *Laura in the Flower* and *Rubber Raincoat* were all about family life. On *The Devil Went Down the Mountain* in the '80s, the star goofed around on the job with his co-workers, but his family remained central. A decade later, the star who played his wife would star in her own program, *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*. Now she is a single career woman whose co-workers trudged in the friends and family. By the time *Friends* came along in the '90s, well, the collegiality much more or less.

The flip side is it's almost impossible to find positive images of solo individuals. The Lone Ranger, for one thing, isn't "lonely"—he has Tonto. Spider-Man is about as good as it gets—and that Peter Parker is a conflicted gay. No, the natural instinct is to be suspicious of the lone wolf, to loathe them even. Dr. Frankenstein's creature is a case of a kind—a freak. Quack, quack the cartoon.

The character generally regarded as the first anti-hero in literature—part-croaking the Devil—*Don Quixote* in Don Quixote's *Don Quixote* and *Pantagruel*, a loner. And of course, real life is worse. *The Unshackled Jeffrey Dahmer*. Now there are some guys without friends.

How that couples can feel isolated as well, especially when the only adults they talk to besides each other are so well-versed in the patterns of their kids' friends. Still, being single pretty much cuts off from that world of complaint. In fact, it's hard to shake the notion that if I'm feeling abandoned, it's because that's what I deserve.



We're talking the long, dark route of the soul. After all, there are all those sets of occasions. The phone calls. The gifts, the help offered too late to be genuinely useful. Not to mention the acts of communion, even if offence was given where none was intended.

Still, blame, even where deserved, is not productive. Better to move ahead, to make new friends. This is not just about wanting more to look forward to on Friday night than the latest DVD (though, of course, that's part of it). Studies have repeatedly shown that those who are socially isolated have greater health problems and even die younger than those who are surrounded by friends and family.

The question is how, in practical terms, does one go about making new friends? There are muscles that have been allowed to atrophy over the years. When you're little, you can play all day with a kid whose name you never learn. Later, school and even first jobs provide natural bonding grounds for friendships—they offer a shared experience to a group of people in relatively the same neighborhood. Much beyond that, though, social obligations and preoccupations are established. People huddle together for the friends they do have, in some new ones.

These little help to be found on the book shelves. Mostly, there are self-help tomes for the devolved and lost of their whereabouts down to, "Decorating your joy and even if you don't meet someone special, you'll make new friends and maybe they'll have a sibling or cousin they can introduce you

to." Making friends is a means, in the means, not the end, no explanation necessary.

Any extroverts are probably wondering just what the problem is like. Fellow introverts know just how hard it can be to be outgoing, to be friendly and relaxed in unfamiliar situations. I could draw on one of the skills I've acquired as a reporter, actually asking the sorts of questions that draw people out—but that would make it feel unnatural like work.

For some, the solution can be the length of time of the year. I'm fortunate that I do have family, however small, and that fulfilling friends remained home. There was a lull to the season that was disrupting like now January's here, and I should make the effort to make new friends as they live depended on—in, because, in a way, it does.



TO NEW HEIGHTS

ON DEC. 3, Sylvestre Bedard, a 36-year-old heart transplant recipient from Montreal, and Dave Smith, a 44-year-old kidney recipient from Timmins, set world records for mountain climbing. It was, in many respects, a uniquely Canadian adventure: the two men had become friends representing Canada at athletic events before they

with transplanted organs. And Bedard was becoming something of a legend in cardiology circles: after 14 years since his transplant—he scaled Mont Blanc in France, along with his doctor, Michel White.

On this trip, Smith reached the 6,654-m summit of the Sapient volcano in western

Bolivia. Bedard made it to the 6,120-m mark. Both were exalted heights for kidney and heart recipients. Sponsored partly by pharmaceutical giant Merck Frosst Canada, the \$75,000 expedition was also unusual in that three of the six climbers were cardiologists—two of them long-time friends (Bedard and White) who agreed to be

Two Canadian transplant recipients set a record

along as much for the camaraderie as the science. One of them, on her first big mountain, was Dr. Heather Ross, 42, a mountain-climbing enthusiast and head of the heart transplant team at the University Health Network in Toronto. She spoke recently with *Maclean's* Senior Editor Robert Sheppard.

Wasn't this a pretty unusual relationship between doctors and patients?

The whole relationship in transplantation is different from your standard doctor-patient interaction. When a patient comes forward for transplant, we might see him every day for a pretransplant period while he waits for his transplant, then daily afterwards, then once or twice a week, then once every two weeks and so on. It's a recipe for a much closer doctor-patient relationship.

Having said that, you don't normally travel with your patients. So, yes, this was more unusual. That first day at base camp we did a small peak and we all started crying. It was just over 5,000 m. And I think we all thought for the first time, well, we may actually do this. The bonding was amazing.

How demanding is Sapient?

It isn't a super-technical mountain. There was an 80-m section requiring fixed rope because of a 70-per-cent incline. The first



The climb: In Bolivia, from left: Dr. Yves Bedard, Michel Smith, Dr. Ross, Steven White, Sébastien Léveillé

portion was loose scree, which can be very challenging, and then the final 500 m were on ice. But when you factor in altitude and know that you're not performing at your best, it adds a whole separate layer of difficulty that you have to adjust to.

Are Sylvestre and Dave typical recipients?

Well, yes and no. The average age for heart transplant is probably around 30, so it's not that much older than Sylvestre. When you think about the early transplanters that were done—people didn't live very long and there were a lot of complications—we really have come a long way. We can get people now back to a "normal" life. Both Sylvestre and Dave work full-time, they both have families, kids. And here they are doing that

I wouldn't expect every transplant recipient to climb mountains, but what we can take from this is that the possibility is there.

What did you learn scientifically?

There are three major things we're studying and we don't have all the answers. We're looking at oxygen in the blood, trying to determine if it's different in transplant recipients. And there didn't seem to be much difference among any of the climbers. We are also testing blood for, among other things, the levels of growth factors that can lead to thickening in the heart wall, which can be a sign of future problems in some patients. And we're looking at the heart rate response to exercise.

There's been a lot of scientific debate about whether immune system suppressions [which transplant recipients need to accept the donated organ] affect muscle, and are the reasons some people don't get back to normal activity after transplant. Both Sylvestre and Dave are on the same immunosuppressive drugs that Sylvestre's heart response is blunted. Because of the team plan, he has no right nerve, which is what allows the heart to beat. When the body detects it, having Dave there, we thought could it be when heart-related and what is a response to the drugs.

Sylvester's performance surprised you?

He performed beautifully. But he did get fatigued and in the end he passed out because, in his words, he thought about his family. His goal was to summit, but his major goal was to get home. He has five kids. And at 6,120 m, that was enough.

We all had our own issues. For myself, I had the worst headaches I'd ever had in my life. That was altitude sickness. As much as I was predominantly disappointed because I was still feeling pretty strong, it would have been foolish to stay there.

What did you learn from Sylvestre and Dave?
They wake up every morning and they use the day as a gift. They maximize every day. It's so much that those guys are amazing; they are—it's that they are ambassadors for what the potential is for those who get to receive donated organs.

A POLITICAL FOOTBALL

Canada's naval fleet was once the third largest on the high seas

BY JIM 10, 1910, when Prime Minister Wilfrid Laurier tabled his Naval Service Bill, the parliamentary consensus that a year earlier had supported the "speedy organization of a Canadian naval service" no longer existed. Conservative opposition leader Robert Borden, worried by the growth of Germany's navy, criticized Laurier's legislation for restraining the right to decide what Canadian warships would serve with the Royal Navy and called, instead, for Canada to fund a British battleship. Meanwhile, others from both parties demanded the German threat and believed that anything larger than the Fisheries Protection Service would distract Canada from England's wars. Still, Laurier had enough votes on May 4 to establish the Royal Canadian Navy, where for the rest of the century it would achieve great things—especially during the Second World War—but never escape being a political football.

During the First World War, the RCN grew from a handful of ships to more than 100, including 12 Canadian-built, anti-submarine destroyers that swept the seas at the mouth of the St. Lawrence River, where convoys began the Atlantic crossing. The more audacious Canadian naval operation came when B.C. Premier Sir Richard McBride sent an offend to Seattle as the day war was declared to purchase two U.S.-built submarines that Chile had not yet paid for. Once turned over to the RCN, they patrolled the West Coast for German vessels bypassing the opening of eastern U.S. ports. Later, they became the first British Empire submarines to transit the Panama Canal en route. Fire broke out on one of the subs, overwhelming most of the crew.

The immediate post-war year saw ambitious plans to further bolster our forces at sea. But in the 1920s, Prime Minister Mackenzie King slashed the naval estimate 40 percent to \$1.5 million, necessitating the scrapping of a cruiser and two subs. Twenty years later, Rear Admiral Leonard Murray summed up Ottawa's attitude at the time: "They would be pleased if someone made up his mind to take the whole navy out into the



Convoys started were the main wartime job

middle of the ocean and sink it without a trace." But as international tensions increased during the mid-1930s, King—who was an effective navy in a very bad way—had to raise a large army—increased the estimates to \$6.6 million by 1938, enough to enter the war the next year with relatively modern British-built destroyers and seven smaller ships.

The almost 100,000 men who served the RCN during the Second World War may have dreamed of great battles like the sinking

WITHIN two years
of VE Day, the navy
had mothballed nearly all
of its ships, leaving only
seven vessels

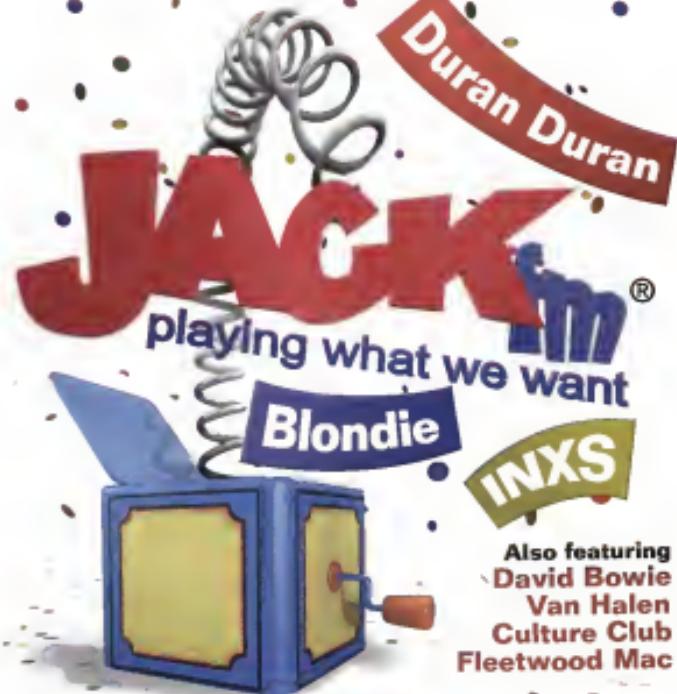
of the Bismarck, but their anti-warship mission—convoy escort duty—was more prosaic, also hazardous. Between 1939 and 1945, Canadian ships and nearly 1,000 men to escort convoys while escorting some 25,000 merchant ships across the Atlantic. By 1945, Canada's navy was the world's third largest.

But within two years of VE Day, the RCN had mothballed nearly all its ships, leaving only four destroyers, two tribal-class cruisers and a single fleet carrier. In 1950, despite lacking ships to adequately defend our coast, Ottawa sent three destroyers to the UN "police action" in Korea. That December, a Canadian-led task force won its second victory after ramming 30 km up the shallow Dado-la-Blu to rescue trapped UN troops.

By 1956, to fulfill Canada's NATO commitment, the government boosted the navy from a handful to 47 ships, including two fleet carriers. But in the 1960s, political support for the RCN waned again, and 25 ships, including the carrier HMCS Bonaventure, were sold for scrap. "By the 1970s, the fleet was fading out," says naval historian Marc Milner. "Trade-offs justified its mothballing in the late 1970s, but that was simply another version of the loan and bar cycle that characterized Canadian defense operating." And now, on the heels of the last submarine tragedy when a sailor died last October in another submarine fire, Paul Martin must grapple with the perennial issue of whether to spend or scrap.

a bunch of songs

volume 1



Also featuring
David Bowie
Van Halen
Culture Club
Fleetwood Mac

Available wherever CD's are sold

HAVANA FANTASIA

On a jury for Cuba's film festival, our critic revels in a vibrant culture



IT WAS INSANE, dropping off to Cuba at the height of the holiday movie season. What was I thinking? I'd miss the advance screening of *Spanglish*, then I'd been invited to sit on a jury at Havana's International Festival of New Latin American Cinema (Dec. 7-17). For years, my Colombian friend Martes Puerto—musician, filmisseur and programmer with Toronto's film festival—had tried to drag me to the Havana festival. He went on about it as if it were a portal into a lost world, a Neverland of Latin culture. But I

was always too busy to go. Three years ago I became deaf in one ear, at the age of 46. Now, finally, I know what he was talking about.

I'm in a room on the 23rd floor of the Habana Libre hotel—in a room of the American modernism that was erected as a grand new *Hilton* just before the Cuban revolution, then simply confiscated and rechristened *Fidel Castro* and his guerrilla cohorts set up headquarters on the 23rd floor, directly below me. That was 40 years ago. I try to imagine *Fidel* sitting in his office in a room like mine, ordering a club sandwich from room service (it's 2 a.m., and I can't sleep). The�ade is vibrating with the boulderous grind of a bus from the disco two floors up. Might as well check it out. Almost before I'm in the door, a cartoon blood clutching a pink coffee cup comes up in broken English. This young model of references says she's studying journalism and synchronization engineering, then politely offers herself to me for \$100. I politely decline. *Me, Havana* has too many hookers and too many cops, reminders that that place is no scrap, it's a political contradiction, a last outpost of Conservatism locked in a time capsule of faded colonial grandeur. Yet it also has one of the most vibrant cultures on the planet. I showed up at a film festival inspecting movie movies, and found myself in the middle of one—an ex-tranquillized mind.

On my first afternoon in town, I'm whisked off from an opening at *La Guarida*, a Spanish colonial landmark on a derelict street. We climb a rickety staircase to a grand man of

cinema this hour
a state statement
stays shortly after
the 1959 revolution

mailed catalog, model pillars and crumpling ochre walls. Paintings hang from clothes pegs on lines strung across the room. The painter is Jorge Ferreragua, a celebrated actor, and the building was a location for his best known role—in Tomás Gutiérrez Álvarez's *Strawberry & Chocolate* (1994), the Oscar-nominated hit that challenged Cuba's official taboo against homosexuality. (The taboo has since ended. But I love the story of two famous gay Europeans who once visited the festival, a filmless, a filmless and fish on designs created at an underground site, they spent a week arguing in jail—apparently the highlight of their trip.)

In a corner, a bartender mixes mojitos, sniffing wads of fresh mint into plastic glasses. And a band begins to play—a jazz band of Cuba's hottest young musicians. The music isn't traditional son or salsa but an urban mix of pop, jazz and reggaeton with influences of Brazil's sanguineous turns at the ripe. The guy hand-drumming on a plywood beat box is one of Cuba's top contemporary panthers. The charismatic woman at house Yuya, a black singer/guitarist with an inverted pyramid of Grace Jones hair who has toured Europe to rave reviews. I finally lay them out, but soon this small crowd of Havana's cultural elite—writers, actors, filmmakers, soap-opera stars—is a drumfire of singing and dancing. Music pierces out the openばかりのソーラーの柔らかな光の夜。

We tend to associate Havana with a more

surp—the vintage beat of the *Banana* *Vista* *Social Club*, and the cartoon blood cups



look like cosmic souvenirs. But this is the sound of a 21st-century Cuba. I ask Ferreragua about his paintings, which feature a lot of dark highways with shimmering white lines. "They represent Cuba at a crossroads," he says. "Now the roads are going in just one way, but I see a time beyond the crossroads when they'll go in many directions."

Ferreragua is also a jury member at the film festival, which after 28 years remains the world's liveliest remnant of Latin American cinema. And it's still edited by the man who created it, Alfredo Garsón, the godfather of Cuban cinema and a close friend of *Fidel*. A pale, delicate man, he opens and closes the festival reading long speeches from a spooly pulpit at the back of the cinema, a suit-jacket draped over his shoulders like a papal vestment. Garsón (no relation to Che) founded Cuba's state film studio just three months after the revolution. *Cinema* has been a state institution here ever since. Among the pictures at this festival is

A POIGNANT
contradiction, Cuba is a
last Communist outpost
locked in a time capsule
of faded colonial grandeur

Am Cuba, The Silence—Brazil, a Brazilian documentary that tells the tragic story of 1964's *Bay of Pigs* ("I Am Cuba"), a�ant, a�ant epic by Soviet director Michael Balcones. Arriving just in time for the Cuban Missile Crisis, *Kala* (as we spent two years filming on the island). It was an encounter by the young romance of a tropical revolution—and the opulence of society built as male playgrounds. With a story that starts from the early days of Batista's *Havana* to Castro's guerrilla assault, *Soj Cuba* may be the most lush propaganda film ever made—a brazen fear of black-and-white cinema.

Shanda Dezziel | ON POP CULTURE



'Life lessons' that really aren't

Too many people blur the line between reality and what happens on television

THE FIRST TIME I remember a TV show plot line seeping into my real life, I was seven. My grandmother and I were big fans of *Dallas*, and they bought a kid-sized T-shirt with "I shot J.R." printed on it. It seemed normal that our small town had seen the diffuser, and I got a look out of that article of clothing. I wore it nearly every day for an entire summer until it was revealed that Kristen (Kris) Jenner had actually done the deed. After that, I was no longer a saphead—and that's when the disaster

We're all guilty of picnicing ourselves in our favorite shows, picking which *Friends* character you most resemble—hell, maybe you even got "the Rachel" haircut. But some people just don't handle their television consumption responsibly—hence the flourishing MTV reality show *I Want a Realtor*, where participants actually closed escrow with Brad Pitt, J. Lo or other celebs. And while I've found it helpful to imagine I'm *The Amazing Race* whenever I've got to perform a task that makes me nervous, one must refrain from applying the "skills" and "lifelessons" gleaned from TV viewing to real-life high drama situations.

For instance, my sister was in a serious car accident on a major highway before checking for broken bones or fatiguing straining muscles, she writhed herself from under the airbag, jumped out of the car and started running. Yes, she was in shock, but mostly she was thinking the car was going to blow up—because that's what always happens on *Third Watch*, a show about heroic rescue workers. On a recent trip to my

hometown, I found that same mentality that had plagued my *Dallas* fantasy was again blurring the lines of TV and reality—only this time it wasn't for a laugh. In a tragic event last spring, a local woman was running and was found dead after disappearance. The police have ruled it homicide, but have yet to make an arrest. It's human nature for people to speculate on what may have happened (but thanks to our paparazzi-obsessed culture, the town is now populated with an ridiculous number of amateur detectives, former experts, corners and real lawyers who have already put the case to hell—with the details they picked up from *NYPD Blue*, *CSI*, *Crossing Jordan* and *Law & Order*). Besides, I can't believe a's taking the real police so long to realize what they deducted in only a few days, and what *Dr. Andy* Simpson would have figured out before the first commercial break.

Now, if I can play armchair analyst—after all, I've learned a lot from *The Sopranos* Dr. Melfi—I would say these well-intended folks are simply trying to process something that's tragic, and looking for ways to be useful in a crisis. But infusing a tragic event with the fervor of a TV cop show is not going to lead to an arrest any sooner than searching your river. Colorado is going to win you an Emmy.

Parents worry about swiping the minds of young children, posting warnings about adult subject matter, violence and coarse language. But it's hardly hard to add one for adults too—don't you have a real life, too?

—Shanda Dezziel
shanda.deziel@mediamatters.org



—Shanda Dezziel
shanda.deziel@mediamatters.org

Technique | It's like a bath for your brush

We clean dishes and clothes after each use, but when it comes to toothbrushes—pikewands for teeth—we use the same one over and over for weeks, even months, before replacing it. Now Philippe Starck—world renowned designer—has come to the rescue with the *Washlet* toothbrush holder and cleaner. It comes equipped with a germ-killing UV light that promises to kill off 99.9 per cent of the bacteria on your brush. And it doubles as art—a sort of futuristic, glowing pool for your bathroom country. —LAMAR COOPER

Style | Tween up your room

Thanks to their ever-growing purchasing power, tweens now have designer clothes, shampoos and cosmetics marketed just to them. There's even a junior edition of *Time*. So it's only a matter of time before companies start marketing youth-themed decor. Recently, Pottery Barn launched *Pitts* (www.pitts.com), which sells everything from high-end beanbag chairs to funky wall art. At www.girlsrulebty.com, tweens can buy brightly colored desk accessories and customizable purple alarm clocks. And the U.S. clearing kids (www.usclearingkids.com) sells such girly items as the feathered and braided "diva princess lamp." What's next? Tween chia?



BACKTALK

Money's Worth | Organic skin care

Moisturizing au naturel

It's that time of year again—the 90-degree heat is here to stay (or spray). Skin care sales are booming, but for eco-savvy consumers—an ever-expanding category—new organic lines are making the biggest impression. Between 2003 and 2004, the category made an impressive 15 per cent jump in sales. "Generally speaking, organic skin care tends to be more with the line's ingredients," explains Al Buder, co-founder of *Almaherb* (almaherb.ca), a Canadian online organic cosmetics store. These products contain herbs, essential oils and natural waxes, with synthetic preservatives, fortifiers or genetically modified ingredients. In other words, they're better for the environment, and they'll leave that chemical residue on your skin, but they're also quite a bit more expensive than your average skin care product. We tested 10 organic manufacturers to determine which ones are worth the premium. —KAREN HARLEY



OUR PICKS *Almaherb* (www.almaherb.ca) and *the small stuff* (www.thelittlesmallstuff.com). *Almaherb* carries the freshest and most interesting certified-organic and biologics. *the small stuff*

ALMAHERB: INDIGO MINT HAND & BODY LOTION

Price

\$14 for 200 mL (\$0.07/1 mL)

Company

A large, family-owned company with a focus on natural packaging and products aimed at the natural crowd in mind.

ALMAHERB: BALMING INGREDIENT MOISTURIZER

Price

\$36 for 50 mL (\$0.72/1 mL)

California-based company targets the young, style-conscious market with a lack of ingredients, or as the website claims, "a blend of natural ingredients instead of a mix of synthetic ones."

THE SMALL STUFF: BANANO REPAIRING RECOVERY GEL

Price

\$17.99 for 240 mL (\$1.00/1 mL)

A little company that prides itself on being a "small stuff" company. Available in Canada and a worldwide chain of retail stores, the line of cosmetics is based on a line of natural and aromatherapy products.

What's in store

Phytoherb's airtight, sized *Aronia* with this organic essential oils extracted from organic plants. Available in a toning/cleansing, toning/cleansing or calming lavender (200 mL).

PHYTOHERB: BALANCING MOISTURIZING LOTION

Price

\$27.99 for 240 mL (\$1.00/1 mL)

This 25-year-old Quebec company produces a line of organic cosmetics that's available in Canada and the U.S. Recently became first in North America to have products certified organic by French's Ecocert organization.

No synthetic ingredients as per Canadian standards. No paraben products.

TIP: Unlike organic fruits, cosmetics aren't monitored by federal agencies—so instead, look for which brands use certified organic ingredients.

Blend of *Salvia officinalis* and *Viola tricolor* (holy basil) and *Malva sylvestris* (honey locust). *Almaherb* takes a lot of time to research and create its own formulas, so this price

is medium-weight and creamy. *the small stuff* (200 mL) is a bit of a splurge, but it's a blend of organic ingredients.

Very light and watery. *Almaherb* and *the small stuff* both are 100 per cent natural.

A great, healthy moisturizer—the ingredients are French. Takes ages to mix, but the results are well worth it.

A healthy mix of flowers (peach, orange, rose), herbs (lavender and citrus) and fruit (strawberries, blueberries, kiwi, and very strong strawberries).

Very good, refreshing and watery. *Almaherb* and *the small stuff* are similar in texture, but *the small stuff* has a little more of a "kick" (citrus).

Very good, refreshing and watery. *Almaherb* and *the small stuff* are similar in texture, but *the small stuff* has a little more of a "kick" (citrus).

Medium-weight and creamy. *Almaherb* (200 mL) is a bit of a splurge, but it's a blend of organic ingredients.

For your Money's Worth product test drive, go to www.usnews.com/consumer

THE SUBJECT: Being as expensive as dry oils, organic skin creams are definitely luxury items. Fortunately for budget-busters, their clean, natural scents are refreshing enough to make you look 20 years younger.



THE NEWS ABOUT THE NEWS

And it's not good: fewer reporters are covering the stories that matter.

AND NOW THE NEWS FROM OTTAWA. Or rather, the news about the news from Ottawa: the discouraging news there are fewer and fewer people here to report the news.

For this information we are indebted to Christopher Wildell, a former Ottawa bureau chief for the *Globe and Mail* and then for the CBC. Today he is the *Carry Chair* in Business and Financial Journalism at Carleton University. In November, Wildell testified before the Senate committee on transport and communications, which is investigating the state of the Canadian news business. Here is the role Wildell described for the senators:

"What I learned in Ottawa in the mid-1980s," he said, "Castaneda Press had a bureau of about 36 people. It has half that now and probably does less than half of what it used to do. CBC TV had about a dozen reporters in its Ottawa bureau. Now it has half that. And it operates a 24-hour news channel in addition to everything it did before."

Many newspapers—the Windsor Star, London Free Press, Hamilton Spectator, the Regina Leader-Post—used to staff their own news bureaus in Ottawa. Not any more. Surviving bureaus have shrunk. The Montreal Gazette had three Ottawa journalists in 1994, and has one today.

Should newspapers and their reporters be allowed to choose a complex topic to be the focus of a news story at a time? "The only option is to turn your reporters into general assignment reporters," he said. Twenty years ago, he might have believed a reporter in a newsroom who knew enough about economic policy to explain Newt Gingrich's proposal with Clinton's equalization. Today, the poor up-front position, from the refusal of a Supreme Court decision to a briefing on disaster relief, to a cabinet minister's steame and complicated news conference.

The upshot, in Walkell's succinct and striking formulation, uninterestingly, politics is viewed "as though everything that happened that day has never happened before and will never happen again".

How do you cover a story under fire?

resources couldn't go abroad because they had to be deployed at home. "Most advice is that if they must choose between spending another \$100,000 for one correspondent abroad, or using it to provide three extra reporters to cover city hall, or the West Island, or Quebec City, or Ottawa, will spend it, naturally, on local or regional coverage."

If only nowadays they simply don't specify! Hence what Joe Mayan, a journalist and union representative at the London *Free Press*, told the senators on the committee: "Wadeed identified 'If you were to have looked at [the *free press*] 10 to 15 years ago, you would have seen that we had 155 people in the editorial department.' Today the numbers are 72," Mayan says. "We no longer have reporters assigned to cover agriculture, consumer affairs, environment, labour, religion, social services, and other areas of concern since one did." Figures are conveniently apocryphal, typical of a single reporter who remembers a story that didn't make it into last week's paper but may suddenly resurface.

dropped into the middle of the Telegraph, what any other stringer would notice immediately (but Barry Williams is colorless) and conflict (try, he's angry at Paul Martin). We can't hope to make sense of government, so we are shooting.

I leave one Ottawa pundit who argues that Ottawa newsmen are especially gung-ho, because John Chretien made politics routine and boring. It'd be a more convincing argument if it was true, but who has been paid up somewhere else. No such lack. Foreign news? Many agencies have closed bureaus in Tokyo and Moscow and London, relying instead on international bureaus. So then the same problem that affected Ottawa coverage of domestic stories remains: even a reporter who has been to the scene of a major event, such as the 1995 Quebec referendum, may not have been there.

Localism? In 1981, Mack Hierison, who was editing the *Greene*, told Tom Kent, royal commissioner on communications: "Localism is any story that isn't a crisis."

If only nowadays they simply don't specify! (Hence what Joe Mayan, a journalist and union representative at the London *Free Press*, told the senators on the same issue.) Waidei insisted: "If you were to have looked at [the *Free Press*] 10 to 15 years ago, you would have seen that we had 553 people in the editorial department. Today the number is 72." Mayan says: "We no longer have reporters assigned to cover agriculture, consumer affairs, environment, labour, religion, social services, and other areas of society as we once did." "Legends are created sporadically, instead of by a single reporter who remembers a thing that didn't get into last week's paper but may suddenly resurface."

How to fix it? A lot of you won't be happy with Wadell's suggestion, but I end one entirely drive up the value of Canadian media properties and the level of competition by buying the protectionist rule of Canadian ownership. Let foreign ownership in the Canadian newspaper market.

Even better, this would allow foreign ownership in the Canadian newspaper market.

Even when we squinting more the value increases already. My first question for the non-economic, if moral apart from getting rich and getting a worse, what has Canadian owners done in the past 13 years to deserve further erosion?

<http://www.fredwells.com>
Read Fred Wells's Weblog, "Inkless Wells,"
at www.fredwells.com.

One fund.
One investment.
One easy way
to diversify.

Scotia Partners Portfolios® Funds.

The old saying, "don't put all your eggs in one basket" is especially true for investing. One of the best things you can do is diversify, or spread your money around. But knowing what funds to choose and tracking your portfolio can be challenging.

With Scotiabank Partners Portfolios Funds, one fund invests in Canada's leading mutual fund companies. It's a convenient way to minimize risk while you're maximizing growth potential. Learn more about this one-stop solution for diversifying your portfolio at www.scotiabank.com/partners or your local branch.

²⁰The *Secularists* *Concise* refers to 'The Basis of New-Socialism' as 'Reappraised' (herein after 'The Basis of New-Socialism'). ²¹ Reproduced (herein after 'The Basis of New-Socialism'). ²² 'Fundamentals of the Basis of New-Socialism' (1945) contains a list of 12 'socialized' companies that were then being run by their respective managers. In 1946, the 'Fundamentals' were published in *Secularists' Concise* (1946), and the 12 'socialized' companies were listed as '12 New-Socialized Enterprises' (1946). ²³ 'The Basis of New-Socialism' (1945) contains a list of 12 'socialized' companies that were then being run by their respective managers. ²⁴ 'The Basis of New-Socialism' (1945) contains a list of 12 'socialized' companies that were then being run by their respective managers.

¹⁰State Mutual Funds are offered by State Mutual Life, a registered life insurance company, although wholly owned by The Bank of Nova Scotia. Commissioners selling these funds (including their fees and expenses) may be licensed in each state by a state insurance department. Please read the prospectus thoroughly before investing. Copies are available through all branches of The Bank of Nova Scotia, Montreal, Quebec, Toronto, and Westmount, Quebec, and through First Canadian, Toronto, and its authorized agents and dealers. Third-party funds are not recommended for investment. See also Underwriting and Investment, and Investment and Investment Risk, and Annexes.

Scotiabank Group™

2000-2001



BMW X3
with xDrive

maximum | maximum
TRACTION | PERFORMANCE

xDrive

The BMW X3 with xDrive. All-wheel drive like you never
thought possible.

The Ultimate
Driving Experience.™



www.bmw.com/xDrive
1-800-667-6079

BMW X3
with xDrive